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Newspaper of the year

UK 'is not close to being a racially just society', finds two-year study

'Strikingly high' levels of abuse, discrimination and inequality found

Exclusive
Patrick Butler
Social policy editor

Over a third of people from ethnic and religious minorities have experienced racially motivated physical or verbal abuse in their lifetime, according to the biggest and most comprehensive survey of race inequality in the UK for more than 25 years.

The survey found "strikingly high" levels of exposure to abuse across a wide range of ethnic groups, as well as a high prevalence of racial discrimination and inequality of outcomes in education, the workplace, housing and interactions with the police.

"Britain is not close to being a racially just society," concludes the two-year research project, which urges ministers to tackle what it describes as "substantial ethnic inequalities" found across a range of areas of British life and institutions.

It says its detailed evidence of discrimination and unfairness directly challenges the findings of the government-commissioned Sewell report into racial disparities published two years ago, which it argues downplayed the existence and impact of structural and institutional racism.

Almost one in six people from minority ethic and religious groups said they had experienced a racist physical assault before the pandemic, the survey found. This increased to more than one in five Jewish people and more than one in three Gypsy, Traveller and Roma people.

> *'Sadly, few ethnic minority Britons will be surprised'*
>
> **Halima Begum**
> *Runnymede Trust*

Over a quarter of all respondents from minority ethnic groups had experienced racial insults, and 17% said their property had been damaged by racist attacks, it found. Nearly a third said they had experienced racism in a public place, and one in six said they had suffered racism at the hands of neighbours.

Nissa Finney, professor of human geography at the University of St Andrews, who led the study, said it showed racism was "part of the daily lives" of people from ethnic minorities: "The UK is immeasurably far from being a racially just society. The kinds 2 →



PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS

Hundreds attend funeral of British-Israeli sisters

The family of Maia and Rina Dee mourn for the sisters who were killed in a shooting in the occupied West Bank on Friday. Their mother, Lucy, remains in a critical condition. **News** *Page 4* →

King's green energy firm investigated for gas leak

Severin Carrell

A green energy firm set up by King Charles was investigated for numerous health and safety breaches after the unauthorised leak of more than 1,000 tonnes of global-heating gases.

Methane, CO_2 and traces of the toxic gas hydrogen sulphide were released after a gas-holder at the plant split open in 2020. The incident, which lasted for 38 days, was described as "significant" by the Environment Agency.

The plant in Dorset, JV Energen, was also investigated for breaches involving "flammable and toxic" substances. It is majority-owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, a hereditary estate that raises revenues for whoever is the male 9 →

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News



◀ *The survey found most minority groups reported a strong sense of belonging to British society*
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/THE GUARDIAN

Third of people from ethnic or religious minority have suffered abuse

Continued *from page 1*

of inequality we see in our study would not be there if we had a really just society."

Despite abundant evidence of racial discrimination and unfairness, the survey found the vast majority of minority groups reported a strong sense of belonging to British society, often alongside deep attachment to their own ethnic identity. Many groups reported high levels of trust in the UK parliament and devolved governments.

Such relatively high trust levels were especially striking during the pandemic, when ethic minorities had a higher than average chance of being infected or dying from Covid-19. With some exceptions, "ethnic minority people tended to trust the UK parliament more than white British people did", the research found.

Other findings include:

- Nearly a third of people from ethnic and religious minority groups reported racial discrimination in education (29%) and employment (29%), and nearly a fifth said they experienced discrimination when looking for housing.
- More than a fifth of all minorities reported experience of discrimination from the police, though this rose to 43% of black Caribbean groups and over a third of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma groups.
- Ethnic minority groups were more likely to live in overcrowded housing - 60% of Roma families were overcrowded and a quarter of Pakistani and Arab people - and far more likely than white British people to be without access to outdoor space at home.

Halima Begum, chief executive of the Runnymede Trust, the race equality thinktank, said the survey data on racialised violence alone was "incredibly concerning" and disproved the idea that racially motivated hate crime was in decline. "Sadly, few ethnic minority Britons will be surprised by the findings," she added.

The survey recorded high levels of ethnic minority political engagement. The Labour party scored highest among Pakistani, black African and black Caribbean groups; the Tories had the highest share of Jewish votes; and the Liberal Democrats had most support from white Eastern European, Chinese and white Irish groups.

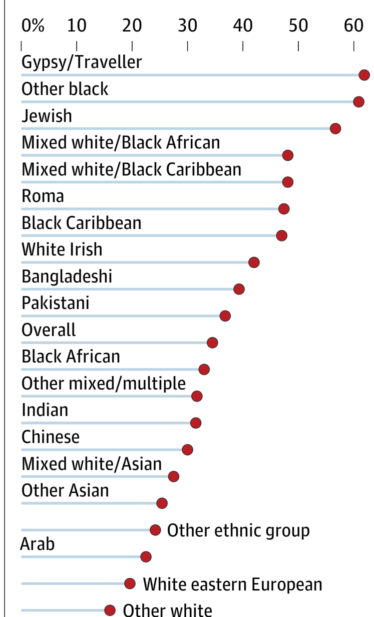
The pandemic saw a rise in racist abuse against Chinese and Asian groups, the survey found. Ethnic minority groups were more likely to experience Covid-19 related bereavement than white British People. However, some minority groups were less likely to experience depression and loneliness during the crisis.

More than 14,000 people across 21 ethnic groups, including white British, were surveyed between February and October 2021. The Economic and Social Research Council-funded project was carried out by a team of academics from the universities of St Andrews, Manchester and King's College London.

The research, published this week under the title Racism and Ethnic Inequality in a Time of Crisis, claims to be the most extensive survey of racial inequalities since 1997, with an unprecedented scale of access, detail and national reach, including what its authors say is unprecedented insight into the experiences of Gypsy, Traveller, Roma and Jewish people.

Produced by the Centre On the Dynamics of Ethnicity at Manchester University, it was co-designed with 13 ethnic minority and community groups. The researchers warned that relatively few participants were under 18 or over 65 and this could mean the findings understate the extent of ethnic inequality in Britain.

More than a third of people from ethnic and religious minorities have experienced some form of racist assault



Source: Evidence for Equality National Survey

Barriers Roma, Gypsy and Traveller people fare worst

Michael Goodier

The barriers that Roma, Gypsy and Traveller people face in modern Britain have been laid bare in unprecedented survey data which details extremely high levels of experience of racial assault, poor health, precarious employment and socioeconomic deprivation.

The figures were recorded as part of the Evidence for Equality National Survey (Evens) of ethnic and religious minorities, which included the largest number of Roma, Gypsy and Traveller participants in any national survey to date.

The research found that 62% of Gypsy/Traveller people had experienced a racial assault - more than any other ethnic minority group, with one in three experiencing a physical racist attack; 47% of Roma people had experienced a racist assault, while 35% had been physically attacked.

The survey also revealed shocking health disparities. Gypsy/Traveller men were 12.4 times as likely to suffer from two or more physical health conditions than white British men, while Roma men were five times as likely - both higher figures than for any other ethnicity.

Access to health and social care services was found to be a larger issue for Roma people than any other ethnic group, being 2.5 times more at risk of not having access than the white British population.

The survey also found that people from Roma, Gypsy and Traveller ethnic groups experienced the highest levels of socioeconomic deprivation. The data showed 51% of Gypsy Travellers and 55% of Roma had no educational qualifications. They were also less likely to be in the highest occupational positions, and also had high rates of financial difficulties and benefit receipts.

Roma, Gypsy and Traveller people were also among the ethnic groups least likely to be in employment, and when they were employed during the Covid-19 pandemic, they were the most likely to be in precarious employment. After adjusting for age, 85% of Gypsy/Traveller men and 65% of Roma men were in precarious employment, compared with 19% of white British men.

The study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and undertaken by the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity, in collaboration with community groups and charities. Academics trained and employed six Roma and Traveller researchers to collect responses from community members.

Sarah Mann, the director of Friends, Families and Travellers, said: "As the data shows, the devastating experiences of people from Romany, Roma and Traveller communities are no longer just anecdotal - the racism, hate, discrimination, and gross marginalisation across the board is actively damaging Romany, Traveller and Roma people's life chances. The government needs to listen to Romany, Traveller and Roma people, and concrete steps must be taken so that everyone can live healthy lives with dignity, respect and free from hate."



▲ *The survey detailed high levels of racial assault and health problems*

The project lead, Prof Nissa Finney, said: "Evens allows us to compare the pandemic experiences of Roma and Traveller people to other ethnic groups which hasn't been possible before now. The disadvantage that we've found with the data is striking.

"Rigorous, robust, reliable data like that in Evens is essential for designing appropriate and effective policies and interventions. There's still work to do to improve data and data collection - marginalised communities can be mistrustful of research and of its ability to bring change.

"A clear message from our study is the need for political commitment to better monitoring and measurement of the full range of ethnic groups."



▼ *Sarah Bernhardt as Cleopatra in 1891: 'incarnation of wild emotion*
PHOTOGRAPH: HERVÉ LEWANDOWSKI/ RMN-GRAND PALAIS

'Free spirit' Sarah Bernhardt honoured in Paris exhibition

Kim Willsher
Paris

On page 158 of a heavy, leather-bound Paris police register from the 19th century, a handwritten entry headed with a photograph details the activities of a young "courtesan" called Sarah Bernhardt.

The book of courtesans, as it was known by the then equivalent of the vice squad, was a record of high-class prostitutes, often actors and dancers, who were the girlfriends of princes, aristocrats and the wealthy.

Bernhardt, then in her teens and noted as being popular with "old men and especially members of parliament", went on to become an icon of France's *belle époque* and an international star of stage and, later, silent screen. On her death in 1923, thousands lined the funeral route to Père Lachaise cemetery and extra carriages had to be hired to transport the enormous wreaths.

A new exhibition in Paris to mark the centenary of her death aims to show the many faces of the woman nicknamed *la Divine*, who became a Hollywood-style celebrity before Hollywood even existed.

"She was the first real star in history; she paved the way for the likes of Greta Garbo, Marilyn Monroe, Madonna and Beyoncé," said Annick Lemoine, director of the Petit Palais, where the event - described by critics as "exceptional" and "unmissable" - opens on Friday.



A cape worn by Bernhardt; below, her 1877 bronze sculpture, Le fou et la mort

"But she was not only a great actress, she was also an influencer of fashion, an artist and a sculptor, a writer and an activist," said Lemoine. "We aim to show all her many faces. Sarah Bernhardt was a woman whose life still resonates today for the variety of her talent and her free spirit."

Bernhardt, the daughter of a courtesan whose patrons included the Duke of Morny, the half-brother of Emperor Napoleon III, was educated at a convent school near Versailles where, aged nine, she announced her intention to become a nun.

Instead, she fell in love with the theatre after her mother, Morny and the novelist Alexandre Dumas père, author of The Three Musketeers and The Count of Monte Cristo, took her to the Comédie-Française.

Under Dumas's guidance Bernhardt studied acting at the Paris Conservatory, making her stage debut in Racine's Iphigénie, which was not a success.

She was forced to leave the Comédie-Française after refusing to apologise for slapping an established actress, and later travelled to Belgium. An affair with a Belgian aristocrat led to the birth of her only child, Maurice. She was friends with the writers George Sand and Gustave Flaubert, and the republican politician Léon Gambetta.

Bernhardt would later return to the Comédie-Française to perform some of her most celebrated roles before setting up her own company and setting off on a two-year tour of England and America. In 1899, aged 55, she took the title role in a French adaptation of Hamlet, a performance she reprised in London and Stratford.

She was hot-headed, rebellious and frequently mired in scandal, her stage style often melodramatic and self-promoting. As the US writer Mark Twain wrote: "There are five kinds of actresses: bad actresses, fair actresses, good actresses, great actresses … and then there is Sarah Bernhardt."

Oscar Wilde called her "the Incomparable One" and wrote the play Salomé - banned by British censors - in French for her. The novelist DH Lawrence saw Bernhardt perform La Dame aux Camélias in 1908, and wrote: "Sarah was wonderful and terrible … she is not pretty, her voice is not sweet, but there is the incarnation of wild emotion that we share with all living things."

As her wealth and fame increased, Bernhardt hired her own Paris theatres, commissioning the Czech artist Alphonse Mucha to produce distinctive art nouveau-style posters for her performances, and touring to pay for her extravagant lifestyle.

All the while she cultivated a reputation for eccentricity, being photographed sleeping in a coffin and encouraging wild rumours about her behaviour, while taking on risky dramatic roles. In 1895 she was one of the first actors to star in a moving picture, and later starred as Queen Elizabeth I in a 1912 French film.

During the first world war she entertained troops on the western front, despite having had a leg amputated after an injury led to gangrene, and also toured America. She died in 1923 as a result of kidney disease.

Sarah Bernhardt: And the woman created the star runs at the Petit Palais from 14 April to 27 August

Four new wild swimming sites to have water quality monitored

Caroline Davies

Wild swimming fans will have access to four new sites in the UK which are being designated as bathing waters ahead of summer, the government has announced.

The sites in Rutland, Devon and Suffolk will receive bathing water status from next month, meaning they will soon benefit from regular water-quality monitoring.

Sykes Lane Bathing Beach and Whitwell Creek at Rutland Water, Firestone Bay in Plymouth and a section of the River Deben at Waldringfield, Suffolk, will be designated ahead of the 2023 bathing water season, taking the total number of official bathing waters across the country to 424, the highest recorded.

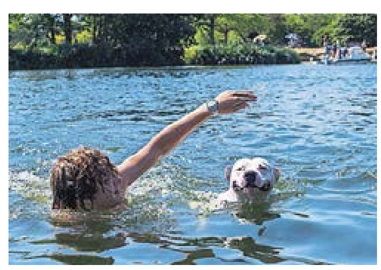
The government said the proportion of bathing waters assessed as "good" or "excellent" has increased from 76% to 93%, while 72% are considered "excellent" compared with 51% in 2010. This is despite classification standards for bathing waters being made stricter in 2015, it claims.

Campaigners, though, have said that most applications for bathing water status to clean up rivers and coastal waters in England have been rejected by the government in the last 14 months. Local communities fighting to clean up their rivers have also been refused access to the reasons their applications were turned down.

The announcement follows the publication last week of the government's Plan For Water, which said water companies could face unlimited fines for dumping raw sewage in rivers, and outlined proposals which could see wet wipes containing plastic banned.

Labour said the plan amounted to a rehash of old policies and claimed the measures would not stop sewage being dumped.

Water minister Rebecca Pow said: "These popular swimming spots will undergo regular monitoring starting this May, so bathers have up-to-date information on the quality of the water and action can be taken if minimum standards aren't being met.



▲ *There will soon be 424 official bathing waters across the country*

"We now have more bathing waters than ever, and we've worked hard in recent years to boost their status - with an incredible 93% now classed as good or excellent - and our new Plan For Water will help us go further and faster on our targets."

The Environment Agency will take regular samples at the newly designated sites during the bathing season, which runs from 15 May to 30 September. It will assess whether action is needed to cut pollution levels and work with local communities, farmers and water companies to improve water quality at the sites.

▼ *Xiamen, China, seen from the anti-tank fortifications of Kinmen in Taiwan, less than three miles away* PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY



▲ *A Chinese air force pilot during exercises around Taiwan at an undisclosed location, in an image released by China on Saturday* PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS



Chinese warplanes approach Taiwan for second day of simulated attacks

Helen Davidson
Taipei

China sent dozens of warplanes towards Taiwan for a second day of military drills yesterday, launching simulated attacks in retaliation for the island's president, Tsai Ing-wen, meeting the US House speaker during a brief visit to the US.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it was monitoring the movements of China's missile forces, as the US said it too was on alert.

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) sent 70 warplanes, including fighter jets, reconnaissance planes, and refuellers, into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (Adiz) yesterday morning, according to Taiwan's defence ministry. It did not provide a map or locations, but said 31 planes had crossed the median line - the de facto border in the Taiwan Strait between Taiwan and China.

The PLA had announced the immediate start to three days of drills on Saturday morning. By 7pm that evening it had sent 71 warplanes and eight ships into Taiwan's Adiz, with almost 60 crossing the median line.

Taiwan's ministry said the activity had severely violated Indo-Pacific peace and stability, and had a negative effect on international security and economies. It urged other countries to speak out against China's actions.

Chinese state television reported that multiple units carried out simulated strikes on key targets in Taiwan and the surrounding sea. The Chinese military's eastern theatre command put out a short animation of the simulated attacks on its WeChat account, showing missiles fired from land, sea and air into Taiwan with two exploding in flames as they hit their targets.

A Taiwan security source told Reuters that on Saturday the Chinese drills around the Bashi Channel, which separates Taiwan from the Philippines, included simulated attacks on aircraft carrier groups as well as anti-submarine drills.

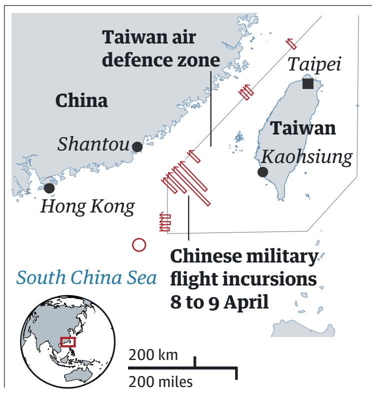
Last August, after a visit to Taipei by the then US House speaker Nancy Pelosi, China staged war games around Taiwan including firing missiles into waters close to the island, though this time Chinese maritime authorities have issued just one notice of a live fire zone, in a small area of water near Pingtan, in the Taiwan Strait. The mandatory notice warns air and seacraft to keep clear of the area, which is just a fraction of the areas designated for live fire during last year's drills.

While in Los Angeles last week, on her way back from Central America, Tsai met the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, despite Beijing's warnings against it.

The de facto US embassy in Taiwan said yesterday that the US was monitoring China's drills around Taiwan closely and is "comfortable and confident" it has sufficient resources and capabilities regionally to ensure peace and stability.

A spokesperson for the American Institute in Taiwan, which serves as an embassy in the absence of formal diplomatic ties, said US channels of communication with China remained open and Washington had consistently urged restraint.

The US severed diplomatic relations with Taipei in favour of Beijing in 1979 but is bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself. China says Taiwan is the most important and sensitive issue in its relations with the US.



Beijing considers Tsai a separatist and has rebuffed her repeated calls for talks. Tsai says only Taiwan's people can decide their future.

Over the past three years or so China has stepped up its military pressure against Taiwan, flying regular missions around the island, though not in its territorial airspace or over the island itself.

Chinese state media said the aircraft flown into the Adiz this weekend were armed with live weapons. Taiwanese air force jets also typically carry live weapons when they scramble to see off Chinese incursions.

Late on Saturday, Taiwan's ocean affairs council, which runs the coast guard, put out footage showing one of its ships shadowing a Chinese warship and warning it to leave the area. Other footage showed a Taiwanese warship, the Di Hua, accompanying the coast guard ship in what the coast guard officer calls a "standoff" with the Chinese warship.

Additional reporting **Reuters**

Funeral held in West Bank after shooting of British-Israeli sisters

Caroline Davies





◀ *Fifteen-year-old Rina Dee, far left, and her sister Maia, 20, were killed when the car they were travelling in came under attack from gunfire*

Hundreds of mourners have attended the funeral of two British-Israeli sisters killed in a shooting in the occupied West Bank.

Maia and Rina Dee were killed on Friday in the north of the Jordan Valley as they drove to Tiberias for a family holiday. Their mother, Lucy, 45, remains in a critical condition in hospital.

Rabbi Leo Dee, the sisters' father, embraced their bodies while mourners sang songs of grief at their packed funeral yesterday, the BBC reported.

Their funerals took place in the West Bank settlement of Kfar Etzion. Maia was 20 and was volunteering for national service in a high school, while Rina was 15.

The car they were travelling in was driven off the road after being shot at in an incident that has been described as a terror attack. Their father was driving ahead in a separate vehicle.

Speaking to the BBC, he described his daughters as beautiful, smart and popular. Maia was "wonderful, beautiful, had a lot of friends … she was very keen to do a second year of volunteering". Rina was "beautiful, fun, very smart, top grades in every subject, very popular with friends, sporty … [and] very responsible".

The family live near the Palestinian city of Bethlehem, having reportedly moved from London eight years ago.

In footage from the funeral, broadcast on Sky News, Dee asked: "How will I explain to Lucy what has happened to our two precious gifts?"

During an emotional speech, he said: "Maia and Rina, you have loved us, you have inspired us, and in turn we will love you forever. May your souls be bound in the bond of eternal life. And may we, and no one else in the world, ever know so much sorrow."

The rabbi, who served in synagogues in Hendon, north London, and Radlett, in Hertfordshire, said that he was proud of his three surviving children. "We are a smaller family but we are stronger from it and we will get through this," Dee said.

The attack came after Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes on Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. Tensions have been heightened by police raids at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque during the rare convergence of Ramadan, Passover and Easter. Settlements in the occupied territories are considered illegal under international law, which Israel disputes.

Hours after the sisters were killed, an Italian tourist was also killed when a car ploughed into a group in a shoreline park in Tel Aviv. Britons were said to be among five people injured in the attack.

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Home insulation plan 'will take 300 years to hit targets'

Jillian Ambrose
Energy correspondent

The government's flagship home insulation scheme would take 190 years to upgrade the energy efficiency of the UK's draughty housing stock, and 300 years to meet the government's targets to reduce fuel poverty, according to industry calculations.

Critics of the Great British Insulation Scheme, which aims to insulate 300,000 homes a year over the next three years, have raised concerns that the plan does not go far enough to reach the 19m UK homes that need better insulation.

The Labour party added that the plan would fail to address the government's "disastrous record on heating our homes", which has seen the rate of energy efficiency upgrades fall 20 times lower than under the last Labour government.

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Development (UKBCSD) has calculated that the pace of the new scheme, unveiled as part of a wide-ranging energy security strategy last week, would take almost 200 years to reach the homes that need upgrades.

The scheme would take another 100 years to meet the government's own targets for improving the home energy efficiency of households living in fuel poverty in England alone, according to the fuel poverty charity National Energy Action.

"We simply don't have that long to act," said Jason Longhurst, the chair of the UKBCSD.

Matt Copeland, the head of policy at National Energy Action, added that progress on energy efficiency in the UK "has been far too slow for a decade", and warned that the scheme was "not well targeted at fuel-poor households, who need the most support with their bills".

"Our own analysis from the most recent set of fuel poverty statistics for England found that it will now take approximately 300 years for the government to hit its statutory target for all fuel-poor homes to reach EPC C - far behind the 2030 deadline."

A Department for Energy Security and Net Zero spokesperson said "strong progress is being made to insulate homes" and the government does "not recognise this analysis".

19m
Homes needing better insulation. The government scheme aims to insulate 300,000 homes a year

Home insulation grants are considered a crucial part of the UK's plan to become a "net zero carbon" economy by 2050 by making homes more energy efficient. They would also offer immediate benefits by making homes warmer and lowering energy bills. However, the pace of home energy efficiency upgrades has stalled in recent years, leaving almost two-thirds of UK homes in need of better insulation.

The number of UK energy efficiency installations, such as insulating lofts and cavity walls, peaked in 2012 at 2.3m but under the Conservative government efficiency programmes were slashed, leading to a slump in home upgrades. By 2021, annual installations were 96% lower, at fewer than 100,000.

Ed Miliband, the shadow secretary of state for climate change and net zero, accused the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, of failing to act despite the sharp rise in home energy bills due to rocketing market prices following the war in Ukraine.

"One of the reasons that energy bills are so high is the Conservatives' disastrous record on heating our homes. Energy efficiency rates are now 20 times lower than under the last Labour government, but Rishi Sunak is failing to act," he said.

The Labour party has put forward plans for a large-scale energy efficiency drive to make sure all of the UK's 27m homes are properly insulated. If elected to government, Labour would aim to upgrade the energy efficiency of 2m households in the first year of a decade-long £60bn scheme that could save households £400 on bills annually.

The party claims that by the end of the decade 450,000 jobs would be created by installing energy saving measures such as loft insulation and double glazing, renewable and low-carbon technologies. "Labour's warm homes plan would upgrade the 19m homes that need it, cutting bills and creating thousands of good jobs for electricians and engineers across the country," Miliband said.

A government spokesperson said: "The Great British Insulation Scheme will support the installation of energy efficiency measures to around 300,000 homes. It is in addition to the £6.6bn we have committed in this parliament, and the additional £6bn of investment to 2028, to help cut emissions from homes and buildings."

Welby cites slavery fund in sermon on 'power of living Christ'

Helen Pidd



The archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, greets members of the congregation after the service at Canterbury Cathedral in Kent
PHOTOGRAPH: GARETH FULLER/PA WIRE

The archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has used his Easter sermon to say that £100m pledged by the Church of England to compensate for its complicity in the international slave trade is not a result of "postcolonial guilt" but "the presence of the risen Christ alive in the church".

Welby said the social impact investment fund announced in January was the right thing to do because the C of E "had done actions that denied the reality of God's universal power and love", which the church was "meant to live".

Researchers found the church's £9bn-plus "perpetual endowment fund" originated partly in something called Queen Anne's Bounty, a financial scheme established in 1704 based on transatlantic slavery.

In his Easter sermon at Canterbury Cathedral yesterday, Welby said: "Even in that old institution, the Church of England, we find the power of the living Christ.

"For example, why in January did the church commissioners - the people who handle our money and stop us wasting it - commit to set aside £100m for a social impact investment fund, to invest in communities that have been affected by the historic scandal of slavery?

"Of course it was because investigation showed that part of its money came from that source. But the reality of the living Christ who we pray to and meet every day made it impossible not to respond when we see that we had done actions that denied the reality of God's universal power and love, which the church is meant to live.

"Every institution will respond to history in its own way, but in our case it is not something like postcolonial guilt; it is the presence of the risen Christ alive in the church."

The £100m has been criticised by some within the church. The Rev Marcus Walker, the founder of the movement Save the Parish, said: "Suddenly, the church has money. After decades of telling us there is no money to fund churches and ministers who keep the church alive on the frontline, suddenly they have found £100m behind the back of the sofa."

The funding should go instead "directly to the frontline", protecting clergy from cuts and parishes from mergers, Walker said.

Giving his Easter greetings on Twitter, Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, thanked churches for "providing a sense of unity and hope", particularly when times were tough.

Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, tweeted: "Happy #Easter to everyone in the UK and around the world celebrating today!"

> *'It's not [from] postcolonial guilt; it is the presence of the risen Christ alive in the church'*
> **Justin Welby**
> *Archbishop*

Labour vows to stop scam calls targeting UK from overseas

Jessica Elgot
Deputy political editor

Labour has pledged a major crackdown on global scammers who call UK numbers to con people out of their money, while criticising the government for a five-month delay in producing a new fraud strategy.

The shadow attorney general, Emily Thornberry, said Suella Braverman had pledged the strategy would be published "shortly" exactly five months ago – adding that 1.5m offences would have been committed in England and Wales in that time.

The announcement comes as Labour seeks to move on from a damaging row over an advertisement that claims Rishi Sunak does not believe adults convicted of sexually assaulting children should go to prison.

The advert was part of a series on the Tory record on crime after a major push on law and order campaigning last week. The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, and the shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, will move on to the economy and cost of living this week.

Thornberry's drive to highlight the government's record on fraud seeks to bridge that campaign between crime and the cost of living.

Labour is proposing a total ban on "spoofing" UK numbers from overseas, plus a block on mobile calls from abroad using UK numbers unless the network provider confirms that the user is roaming.

Number spoofing is when scammers change their caller ID to disguise their identity from the person they are calling, often to make look as if they are calling from the UK.

Labour said it anticipated pushback from industries that rely on overseas call centres, particularly in India, which handle customer service requests.

It said Ofcom should register those companies and their numbers as exceptions, and block all spoofing calls not on that register.

It also said the government had confirmed the change would not affect the terms on digital and data services in the UK-India trade deal that is currently being negotiated.

Thornberry said that the changes could be made swiftly by beefing up new regulations that Ofcom is introducing next month and that Labour would back the government on changes.

But in a recent letter to Braverman, she also highlighted a delayed government pledge to produce a "long-term fraud strategy" promised both by Braverman in a letter to Thornberry five months ago and by Rishi Sunak in the House of Commons in November.

"Five months on, the country is still waiting for you and the prime minister to keep your promises," she said.

"At least 10,000 offences are committed every day against working people and pensioners in our communities … yet the parasites stealing their wages and savings simply move on to their next round of victims with near total impunity.

"Far too many lives in Britain are being ruined, and far too many criminals around the world are growing rich at our expense, for you to delay your promised strategy any longer."

Labour said that two key changes would make the operations of global scamming gangs far harder and said that Ofcom's new controls on overseas scam calls did not go far enough.

There are no government figures for the proportion of fraud offences perpetrated by scammers based overseas, but recent investigations including by the BBC series Scam Interceptors suggest there are professionalised operations in Asia.

Ofcom research in August 2022 showed 61% of people were very unlikely to answer an international number they did not recognise, and 40% said likewise about a withheld number, however that figure fell to 25% if they were being called by an unrecognised UK mobile or landline number.

A Home Office spokesperson said: "This government is absolutely committed to cracking down on fraud and we continue to intensively work with partners across government, law enforcement and industry to protect the public."

Scottish Tory leader takes back remarks over SNP tactical voting

Jessica Elgot

The Scottish Tory leader, Douglas Ross, has backtracked on comments he made suggesting Conservative supporters could vote for Labour at the next general election in seats where Keir Starmer's party had a better chance of beating the SNP.

Ross, who has said he will step down at the next election, had told the Telegraph that voters who supported Scotland staying in the union should consider putting country above party and "do what is best for the country" by supporting "the strongest candidate to beat the SNP".

He told the paper that Rishi Sunak and Starmer should "look a bit beyond their own narrow party agenda" if their priority was to keep the union together.

"I will always encourage Scottish Conservative voters to vote Scottish Conservative," he said. "But I think generally the public can see, and they want the parties to accept, that where there is the strongest candidate to beat the SNP, you get behind that candidate."

However, he appeared to backtrack on the comments in an interview with Channel 4's Ciaran Jenkins last night after they caused anger within the UK party – and it has since emerged he did not discuss his stance with Sunak.

Ross told Channel 4 News: "I'm very clear I want Scottish Conservative voters to vote Scottish Conservative, but we know there are many seats across Scotland in the north, the north-east and the central belt such as East Renfrewshire where the Scottish Conservatives are the challengers to the SNP."

Ross, who has been leader of the Scottish Conservatives since 2020, then suggested other parties should vote for the Tories to see the SNP "losing seats" across Scotland.

However, the presenter pointed out that Labour are second to the SNP in more seats than the Conservatives.

Ross said: "I haven't discussed this directly with the prime minister, but we have discussed where we are going to be focusing our efforts in the forthcoming general election whenever that is called."

Asked earlier about Ross's comments to the Telegraph, a Tory party spokesperson said: "This is emphatically not the view of the Conservative party. We want people to vote for Conservative candidates wherever they are standing as that's the best way to keep Labour and the SNP out."

Anas Sarwar, the Scottish Labour leader, told the Telegraph he rejected any tactical voting pact. "This sounds like the Scottish Conservatives are accepting they're going to lose the next general election," he said.

Additional reporting **PA Media**

Music review

Bittersweet blessing from the partners in rhyme

De La Soul
Royal Albert Hall, London
★★★★★

Stevie Chick

It wasn't supposed to happen like this. De La Soul's prestigious Royal Albert Hall show was conceived to celebrate their beloved albums finally reaching streaming services after years in limbo. But in February, weeks before their re-release, MC Dave "Trugoy" Jolicoeur died, and this intended victory lap would now double as a valedictory for the fallen rapper.

The night is, admits Jolicoeur's partner-in-rhyme Kelvin "Posdnuos" Mercer, "a bittersweet blessing". They are here "to celebrate our music being let out of prison", he says, but there's no escaping Jolicoeur's absence. It's an emotional night; Pos even climbs into the stalls to comfort a fan. But the other purpose of the show, he emphasises, is "to celebrate Dave". The best way to do that? "To party."

While his surviving bandmate Maseo is absent tonight, Pos doesn't have to get that party started on his own. Legendary guests sub for Jolicoeur, but rather than some all-star karaoke, the MCs – onetime De La Soul protege Yasiin Bey, and Dres from fellow Native Tongues posse Black Sheep – are family, and deliver his lines from the heart. Damon Albarn duets Gorillaz' Feel Good Inc with Pos, while former producer and honorary fourth member Prince Paul is an impish presence. The backing group bring his sampledelic productions to vivid life, though tunes featuring just the MCs and longtime touring turntablist DJ Strike are no less electrifying.

De La Soul's infallible pop gift shines bright: delirious disco vamp A Roller Skating Jam Named "Saturdays", Me, Myself and I's irresistible neon funk. There's space, too, for the resonant philosophising of Stakes Is High and the meditative introspection of Breakadawn. Their ability to express that spectrum of the human experience with such lightness of touch and depth is why their words have carried further than just the parish of hip-hop, why this glorious wake is such a life-affirming moment.

"We wanted to be like the Rolling Stones, just keep on doin' it and doin' it," Pos says, in a rare maudlin moment. That dream might have been stolen from them, but Pos isn't finished with De La Soul's legacy yet. This party isn't over.





▲ *Kelvin 'Posdnuos' Mercer of De La Soul on stage at the Royal Albert Hall. Guests at the celebration, which doubled as a farewell performance for the late MC Dave 'Trugoy' Jolicoeur, included the actor Giancarlo Esposito, below*
PHOTOGRAPHS: BURAK ÇINGI/REDFERNS

King and queen consort to use scaled-down route to coronation ceremony

Caroline Davies

King Charles and Camilla, the Queen Consort, will arrive at Westminster Abbey for the coronation on 6 May in the sovereign's newest state carriage, and depart in the oldest, during a day of celebrations that will see a procession route far shorter than that of the late Queen Elizabeth II's 1953 coronation, it has been revealed.

Charles and Camilla will leave Buckingham Palace in the diamond jubilee state coach, built to celebrate the late queen's 60th anniversary on the throne in 2012. They will depart, as King Charles III and Queen Camilla, in the 260-year-old gold state coach, which has been used in every coronation since William IV's in 1831.

In keeping with Charles's wish for a smaller-scale ceremony, the 1.3-mile (2.1km) procession is much reduced from that undertaken by his mother, who travelled in the gold state coach on both journeys; her outward route to the abbey was 1.6 miles long, and the return about 5 miles, taking in Haymarket, Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner, Oxford Street and East Carriage Drive in Hyde Park.

Charles and Camilla will instead travel to the abbey along the Mall, through Admiralty Arch and along the south side of Trafalgar Square, down Whitehall and along Parliament Street. The procession will then travel round the east and south sides of Parliament Square to Broad Sanctuary and arrive at Westminster Abbey, where the coronation service will begin at 11am. The decision is said to be based on practical reasons, being a familiar royal route.

Once crowned, the couple will return to Buckingham Palace along the same route. The second procession will be on a far grander and larger scale, and comprise thousands of members of the armed services from the UK, Commonwealth and British Overseas Territories who will be marching and lining the route, along with the Sovereign's Bodyguard and Royal Watermen.

Details of the route were revealed as Buckingham Palace also unveiled a new emoji, of the St Edward's crown, to mark the coronation weekend.

On the day, the public will get a first glimpse of the king and queen consort as they leave Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey in the diamond jubilee state coach, drawn by six Windsor grey horses, and accompanied by the sovereign's escort of the Household Cavalry.

The coach is topped with a gilded crown carved from oak from HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar.

Its interior is inlaid with samples of wood, metals and other materials from buildings and places with specific connections to Britain and its history, including Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Windsor Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, as well as historic ships such as the Mary Rose.

After the coronation service, the new king and queen will leave Westminster Abbey for Buckingham Palace in the gold state coach. Last seen during the pageant of the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022, it was commissioned in 1760 and first used by King George III, to travel to the state opening of parliament in 1762.

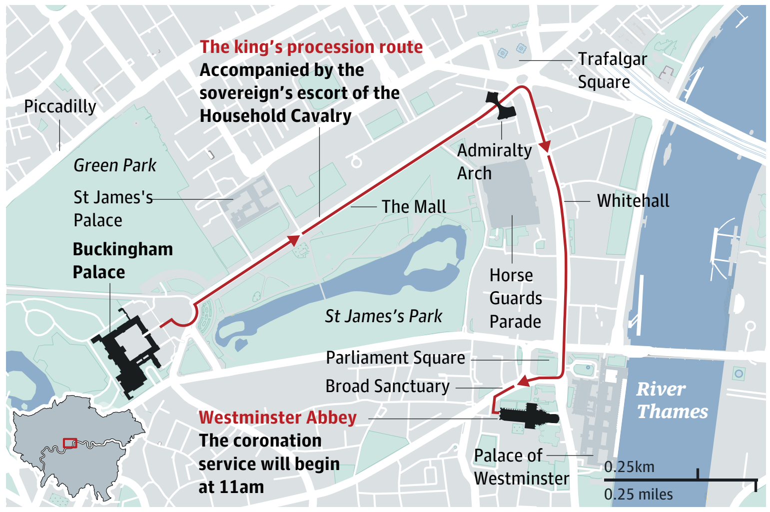
It will be drawn by eight Windsor greys and, due to its weight of four tonnes, will travel at walking pace. Said to creak like an "old galleon" as it moves, it runs a lot smoother than it used to, according to the man in charge of its care.

Martin Oates, senior carriage restorer at the Royal Mews, will walk behind the carriage in the coronation procession and act as the "brake man", pulling the hand-held T-bar at the back to secure it in place when it stops. "When you're following it, you can hear it creaking, so it sounds like an old galleon going along," he said. "It's not quite a washing machine, but where other vehicles just go from back to front, this is moving from side to side."

Queen Elizabeth II once described her journey to and from her coronation in the uncomfortably bumpy gold state coach as "horrible", while Queen Victoria complained of its "distressing oscillation".

On their return to Buckingham Palace, the king and queen will receive a royal salute from the UK and Commonwealth armed forces on parade that day. They will take the salute from the west terrace of the Buckingham Palace garden. It will be followed by three cheers from the assembled service personnel for the new king and queen.

The coronation route



Source: Royal Communications. © OpenStreetMap contributors



▲ *Queen Elizabeth II leaving Westminster Abbey in the bumpy 'creaking galleon' gold state coach on 2 June 1953* PHOTOGRAPH: MIRRORPIX/GETTY IMAGES



Relics

Why a spoon carries more weight than a crown

Caroline Davies

Jewel-encrusted crowns, swords and sceptres may glitter brightest at King Charles III's coronation, but of all regalia the most significant from a historical perspective may be a simple spoon.

When 2,000 guests witness the crowning at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, the regalia – sacred objects symbolising monarchical duties and powers – will play the part they have played in this same theatre for almost 1,000 years.

Yet most of these priceless objects are no older than 350 years, after the crown jewels were destroyed, and the gold and silver melted down for coin, following Charles I's 1649 execution and the English civil war. They were recreated by the royal goldsmith on the orders of Charles II in 1660-1.

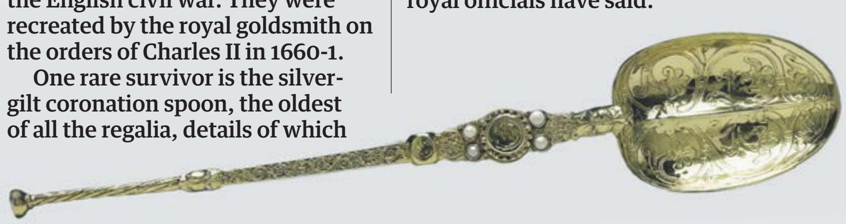
One rare survivor is the silver-gilt coronation spoon, the oldest of all the regalia, details of which were released by Buckingham Palace yesterday. Dating from the 12th century, the spoon – into which the chrism oil, consecrated at the Holy Sepulchre church in Jerusalem, is poured before the anointing of the new king and queen – survived Oliver Cromwell's regalia purge.

It was sold for 16 shillings to Clement Kynnersley, an official who looked after Charles I's wardrobe, then Cromwell's. Kynnersley returned it – some say for a small profit – for Charles II's coronation. Thought to have first been supplied to Henry II or Richard I, the spoon has an oval bowl divided into two lobes that enable the archbishop of Canterbury to dip two fingers easily into the oil to then make crosses on the hands, breast and head of the new monarch.

"Although perhaps the most humble in the [royal] collection it is the oldest … [and] the one real great survivor," said Kathryn Jones, senior curator of decorative arts at the Royal Collection Trust.

While the spoon may be the oldest, one of the most controversial items of regalia may be the queen consort's rod with dove. Used in coronations since James II's in 1685, the sceptre is made of ivory, with gold mount, and is almost a metre long.

Reports it would be absent from this coronation are unfounded, royal officials have said.







The gold state coach will carry the newly crowned monarchs. Right and below: the orb and ampulla PHOTOGRAPH: PA

Weighted with history

The regalia and the messages it carries

The procession

Two silver maces, dating from 1660 and 1695, are carried before the monarch as ceremonial emblems of his authority. Also carried is the golden **St Edward's staff** (1660), thought to be associated with Edward the Confessor.

Three swords are carried by peers, points upwards and unsheathed: the **sword of temporal justice**, signifying the king's role as head of the armed forces, the **sword of spiritual justice**, signifying him as defender of the faith, and the **sword of mercy**, which has a blunted tip, symbolising the sovereign's mercy. The swords were first used at the coronation of Charles I in 1626.

The **sword of state** (1678) is carried before the monarch and used after the coronation.

The anointing

Chrism oil is poured from a solid-gold, eagle-shaped **ampulla** (1661) into the **coronation spoon** (pictured below left). The head of the eagle is removable and oil dispensed through a tiny hole in the beak.

The investiture

In a tradition dating back to Richard the Lionheart in the 12th century, gold **spurs** are given to the monarch, symbolising knightly values. They are not fastened to the sovereign's feet, but simply held to the ankles.

The jewelled **sword of offering**, made in 1820 for George IV, is symbolically offered by the monarch at the high altar, then bought back for 100 shillings.

Two gold **armills,** known as the bracelets of sincerity and wisdom, are put around the monarch's wrists. They date back to 1661.

The **sovereign's orb** (1661), which is hollow and made of gold, is placed into the right hand of the monarch and moved to the high altar before the moment of crowning. The **sovereign's ring**, a symbol of dignity and faith, was made for William IV in 1831.

The sceptre with cross, made in 1661, was adapted in 1910 to hold the huge, drop-shaped Cullinan I, or the Star of Africa, diamond. It represents the sovereign's temporal power. The **sceptre with dove**, known as the rod of equity and mercy, is symbolic of the spiritual power of the monarch. It is placed in the monarch's left hand.



Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953. Below: the crowns of Queen Mary, left, and St Edward PHOTOGRAPH: HM KING CHARLES III/PA



The crowning

The **St Edward's crown**, named after Edward the Confessor, is only ever used for the moment of crowning. It was made for Charles II in 1661 as a replacement for the medieval crown, which had been melted down during the English civil war in 1649.

The queen consort

The consort undergoes her own coronation alongside the king, although not on the same scale. **Queen Mary's Crown** was chosen by Camilla for the coronation and has undergone minor changes for the occasion, including the addition of the Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds, which were part of Queen Elizabeth II's personal jewellery collection.

The departure

At the end of the coronation, the St Edward's crown is exchanged for the **imperial state crown**. Made for George VI in 1937, this is the "working crown" and is set with 2,868 diamonds (of which the Cullinan II is the largest), 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and 269 pearls. Its jewels include some of the most historic in the royal collection, including the 14th-century Black Prince ruby – actually a spinel – which legend has it was worn by Henry V to hold his helmet plume at the battle of Agincourt in 1415.

Caroline Davies

The king and queen consort yesterday. He legally controlled JV Energen as Duke of Cornwall, until he became king PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY



Duchy's green energy firm investigated over several safety breaches

Continued *from page 1*

Cost of the crown

heir to the throne. The duchy said in a statement: "The negative impact of the emissions associated with the leak, while regrettable, were completely immaterial compared with the positive impact of the provision of renewable energy."

The plant is at Rainbarrow Farm, near Dorchester, on Duchy of Cornwall land. Now owned by Prince William by right of his title of Duke of Cornwall, the duchy estate has for decades been overseen by his father.

JV Energen was opened in 2012 and hailed by Charles as a breakthrough in green energy production. It is a joint venture between four farmers and the duchy. The plant turns crops into gas and electricity, which are used in the local area, as well as to create fertilisers for local farms.

The Health and Safety Executive investigated the plant after the 2020 leak and issued a series of improvement notices under health and safety legislation, dangerous and explosive substances regulations and worker safety rules. In December 2020, the HSE's inspection found JV Energen had failed to protect its employees by neglecting to make a "suitable and sufficient assessment [of the] risks of fire, explosion, asphyxiation, toxic releases and potential over-pressurisation of work equipment" at Rainbarrow Farm.

Its follow-up investigations uncovered other safety breaches, including the unsafe use and storage of propane gas, failures to prevent "flammable atmosphere formation", and a failure to test ventilation equipment that protects staff from exposure to potentially toxic ammonia.

The investigations concluded in August last year. The requirements of the final improvement notices were met the following month but the plant is still being monitored "to ensure sustained compliance" with those notices, the agency said.

As a producer of green energy, the plant has been eligible for significant government subsidies. These are worth more than £4m a year to JV Energen. Since its launch in 2012, the company has received more than £28m in state subsidies, according to data analysed by the Guardian.

There have also been numerous warning notices and improvement requests made by the Environment Agency after other incidents.

Official records seen by the Guardian show these incidents included a major leak in January 2015 of tonnes of liquid and solid "digestate", a byproduct from gas production used as a fertiliser, which flooded farmland and a nearby road. The following month, a tanker carrying the same type of fluid overturned at a roundabout near JV Energen's site.

JV Energen is legally controlled by the Duke of Cornwall. Until he became king and passed the duchy to his male heir, Charles was named in the company's records as the person with significant control.

The duchy receives a 59% share of JV Energen profits and has received more than £1m in rent from the company for using the duchy land it is built on. The duchy has been paid a further £6m in interest from a series of loans it has provided to JV Energen.

Last year, the duchy said the business, which also sells CO_2 to drinks firms, was the most profitable of the joint ventures it had with other business partners. Its accounts suggest it made about £4m profit for the duchy in 2022, a significant contribution to revenues that were used to pay the male heir to the throne more than £20m. Buckingham Palace insists such income is "private".

The gas leak in 2020 led to a series of disputes between the Environment Agency and JV Energen over the factual accuracy of the company's estimates of how much gas had leaked, and how to measure its global-heating effects.

The agency disputed calculations by consultants for JV Energy who said the overall greenhouse effect of the leak was equivalent to just over 1,000 tonnes of CO_2. An agency official said he believed it was at least double that.

When contacted by the Guardian, JV Energen referred requests to comment to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The duchy said in its statement that it was "a responsible landowner committed to sustainability and continues to invest in renewable energy and reduce the estate's carbon footprint".


Specsavers
Your care is our business
Specsavers stores are owned and run by opticians and audiologists. So, you'll be in expert hands every time you visit.
Marcus and Kay
Opticians, owners (and husband and wife)



York and iron age Shetland sites among UK bids for Unesco world heritage status



▼ *York city centre and Birkenhead Park, left, are two of the UK sites bidding for world heritage status*
PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE DANIEL PRICE/GETTY; ALAMY

Caroline Davies

The historic city centre of York and ancient settlements in the Shetlands are among seven sites backed by the UK government to win Unesco world heritage site status, it has been announced.

York, which boasts the Minster and enjoys a rich history bequeathed by its Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman inhabitants, and the Zenith of Iron Age Shetland collection of three ancient settlements dating back thousands of years, join five other sites announced on the "tentative list" to bid for the status.

Birkenhead Park, which opened in 1847 as a pioneering project to bring greenery to urban environments, providing a blueprint for municipal planning, is also added.

The tentative list, which is published about every 10 years by the government, sets out the sites in the UK and overseas territories whose bids are felt to have the best chance of winning status as one of the most extraordinary places on the planet. The government will now work with local authorities and devolved administrations to develop their bids.



◀ *A flock of birds at the Wash, Snettisham, Norfolk, which is on the East Atlantic Flyway, a migratory bird route through western Europe*
PHOTOGRAPH: RSPB/PA WIRE

> ***'York is an example of continuous urban development over 2,000 years'***
>
> **Keith Aspden**
> *City of York council*

The East Atlantic Flyway, a migratory bird route over western parts of Europe, including Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent, joins the list in recognition of its vital importance to bird populations and wildlife.

The Little Cayman marine parks and protected areas, in the Cayman Islands, have been put forward for their importance to marine diversity and incredible natural beauty.

The five sites join two others on the tentative list. The Flow Country, a large area of peatland across Caithness and Sutherland in the north of Scotland, plays a crucial role in supporting biodiversity. The Gracehill Moravian church settlement in Northern Ireland is part of a joint bid alongside sites in Denmark, the US and Germany, which aims to recognise its work in setting up an international religious community.

If successful, they would join the 33 other world heritage sites (WHS) based in the UK including Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall. Keith Aspden, leader of City of York council, said: "York is an outstanding example of continuous urban development over 2,000 years since its foundation as a Roman legionary fortress, with evidence of every succeeding period on its urban development. The collection of medieval stained glass in York Minster and the historic parish churches in the centre is unrivalled."

David Armstrong, the assistant chief executive of Birkenhead Park, said a successful application for WHS status would "bolster the wider regeneration of Birkenhead, and this flagship park would have its place in history cemented even further as well adding to its international recognition".

Laura Davies, the UK ambassador to Unesco, said the five newest additions to the list "brilliantly reflect the diversity and beauty of the UK and its overseas territories' natural and cultural heritage, and I look forward to working with them towards world heritage listing".

BBC complains to Twitter over 'government funded' labelling

Nadeem Badshah

The BBC has objected to being labelled as "government funded media" on one of its Twitter accounts.

The corporation said it is speaking to the social media company, owned by Elon Musk, about the designation on the @BBC account to "resolve this issue as soon as possible".

The Twitter account, which has 2.2 million followers, primarily shares updates about BBC-produced television programmes, radio shows and podcasts, and retweets breaking news stories. The "government funded media" label links through to a page on Twitter's help website which says "state-affiliated media accounts" are defined as "outlets where the state exercises control over editorial content through financial resources, direct or indirect political pressures, and/or control over production and distribution".

However, more popular accounts affiliated to the BBC's news and sport output, including BBC News (World) and BBC Breaking News, are not being described in the same way.

In a statement, the BBC said: "We are speaking to Twitter to resolve this issue as soon as possible. The BBC is, and always has been, independent. We are funded by the British public through the licence fee."

Since 1927, the BBC has operated constitutionally through a Royal Charter agreed with the government which states the corporation "must be independent", particularly over "editorial and creative decisions".

It is not the first time this week Twitter has put itself at odds with a broadcaster over its designation after a row with America's National Public Radio (NPR). Initially the social media company described the US public broadcaster as "state-affiliated media", a label given to outlets including Russia's RT and China's Xinhua News. The description was later changed to the same "government funded media" tag now applied to the @BBC account.

Fine Easter to give way to more wind and rain

Helen Pidd

Wet and windy weather is on the way after a largely fine and dry Easter weekend for most of the UK.

High pressure will move away to the east, to be replaced by a westerly Atlantic regime, with periods of winds and rain to come. The wet and windy weather will continue this week, with fronts arriving from the south-west bringing further periods of rain for many from tomorrow.

A developing low-pressure system has resulted in the issuing of yellow wind warnings. The warnings highlight potential travel disruption and the possibility of large waves in coastal areas in the south and west.

The Met Office's deputy chief meteorologist, Steven Keates, said: "There's a distinct possibility of some disruptive wind for parts of the UK, especially in southern and western areas, as well as potential for heavy rainfall and even some snow, though [with] the latter probably confined to high ground in the north.

"Although subject to a large degree of uncertainty, gusts of wind could be in excess of 60mph in some exposed upland or coastal regions, with around 35-50mm of rain possible for some areas."

The low pressure is likely to move into the North Sea through Thursday.

Honour the spirit of compromise to restore Stormont, Sunak tells leaders

Jessica Elgot
Deputy political editor

The Good Friday agreement was "based on compromise" that should be the defining message for the next chapter in Northern Ireland's future, Rishi Sunak has said ahead of the peace deal's 25th anniversary.

Sunak said there was "work to be done" by a new generation of politicians to restore government at Stormont "as soon as possible", as he and the Irish taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, prepare to intensify work to broker a return.

Sunak will meet the US president, Joe Biden, tomorrow on a visit to mark the anniversary, though on a shorter trip than expected. Biden is due to address Ulster University's new Belfast campus on Wednesday and then travel to the Republic.

The Sinn Fein leader, Mary Lou McDonald, expressed frustration that Biden would have no opportunity to address Stormont because of the DUP's refusal to enter power sharing, saying he should be received by "first minister Michelle O'Neill and should be addressing the assembly".

Sunak said the agreement was down to the partnership of the British and Irish governments as well as "huge international support from our closest allies", as seen by Biden's visit. "But most importantly," he said, "it is based on compromise in Northern Ireland itself. As we look forward, we will celebrate those who took difficult decisions, accepted compromise, and showed leadership - showing bravery, perseverance and political imagination.

"While it is time to reflect on the solid progress we have made together, we must also recommit to redoubling our efforts on the promise made in 1998 and the agreements that followed."

He said the promise of the GFA was "economic opportunity, prosperity, and stability - it is a promise we must continue to fulfil. So we must get on with the business of governance.

"We stand ready to work with our partners in the Irish government and the local parties to ensure that the institutions are up and running again as soon as possible."

The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, who spent several years working to advise the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the wake of the Belfast agreement, said the commemorations would mark the achievements of politicians who had brokered the deal, including the last Labour government. "But we always recognised this achievement does not principally belong to us but to the people of Northern Ireland, who, over a quarter of a century, have overcome differences that once seemed insurmountable and shown they can work together to build a better future for themselves and for the generations to come."

He said the country was at "another crossroads" 25 years later, not only with the impasse at Stormont but with recent years of difficult Anglo-Irish relations during the Brexit negotiations. "We must use the spirit and the trust built by the architects of the Good Friday agreement to push us forward to another 25 years of peace and prosperity," he said.

Sunak has come under renewed pressure over post-Brexit plans to ditch thousands of EU laws by the end of this year. The Observer revealed that the government has dropped plans to hold the report stage of the retained EU law bill in the Lords soon after Easter, after Tory peers warned they would join a cross-party revolt.

Yesterday the former secretary of state for Northern Ireland Peter Hain and the former British ambassador to the US Sir Kim Darroch said Sunak should drop the bill, as well as veiled threats to withdraw Britain from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which is directly cited in the text of the Belfast agreement.

Hain, who brokered the St Andrews agreement, which restored power sharing in 2007, said: "Dogmatic adherence to Brexit ideology and nativism continues to threaten this delicate peace, and it is essential the government recognises the risks to the Good Friday agreement if they force the UK out of the ECHR or blindly scrap important legislation."

Darroch, who chairs the anti-Brexit group Best for Britain, said the GFA was "a model of diplomatic engagement, transformational for Northern Ireland, and a shining example of the benefits of internationalism.

"The message it carries for today is that we need to continue to work constructively with others, to honour our international commitments, and to abandon ideas that would put these principles at risk, like the Retained EU Law bill."



▲ *Joe Biden will meet Sunak on a trip to Belfast and the Irish Republic*



Paramilitaries Fears of clashes as threat endures despite 25 years of peace

Rory Carroll
Ireland correspondent

The scenes are like a time warp. Masked men in camouflage gear march through city centres while youths gather petrol bombs to hurl at police. Hoax bomb alerts seal off streets. Fresh murals celebrating gunmen appear on walls. News headlines report so-called punishment attacks.

If Rip Van Winkle had dozed off when the Good Friday agreement was signed in 1998 and woken up now, he might not have noticed much difference in the presence of paramilitaries in Northern Ireland.

A quarter of a century after the end of the Troubles, republican and loyalist paramilitary groups still recruit, still march, still intimidate and, on occasion, still kill.

The conflict is over. The Provisional IRA is fading into history and loyalist groups do not menace Catholics. But a less deadly form of paramilitarism remains woven into society, reflecting and aggravating political dysfunction.

Dissident republicans are expected to parade through Derry today, raising fears of a repeat of previous Easter week rallies that led to clashes between youths and police. Last month, MI5 restored the terrorism threat level from substantial to severe - meaning an attack is highly likely - just a year after it was lowered from severe for the first time in 12 years. Detectives are still hunting the New IRA gunmen who injured DCI John Caldwell in Omagh in February.

Rival factions of Ulster Defence Association and Ulster Volunteer Force wage turf battles over drugs and racketeering, a near-weekly saga of threats, beatings and expulsions that can turn lethal. They have also made ominous threats and hoax attacks over post-Brexit trading arrangements.

Paramilitaries affect 15-30% of Northern Ireland's population, the Department of Justice has estimated. It adds up to a "cruel storm", Simon Hoare, the chair of Westminster's Northern Ireland committee, told a recent hearing. The MP lamented that police had not extinguished groups he said were cover for organised criminals.

No one in Northern Ireland is expecting - and not all want - paramilitaries to be obliterated. Their roots are too deep, too tangled. "You pay them and they leave you alone. That's life," said one fast-food restaurant owner in Newtownards, a town outside Belfast. A pensioner on the Shankill Road, a Belfast loyalist heartland, said so-called punishment attacks continued: "They're still ganging up on people." A former UDA member in east Belfast grumbled that his former comrades were "all about the rackets" but he valued the group's deterrence factor. "You don't see Catholics moving in."

The Good Friday agreement did not phase out paramilitary groups. It was hoped they would fade away with the decommissioning of weapons and a peace dividend. Some did. Provisional IRA members retired or found other roles in Sinn Féin and the republican movement. The Red Hand Commando largely dissolved. UDA members became community activists.

But other factions evolved. Some did so while pretending to transition, said Paul Smyth,



◀ *A mural in Derry, Northern Ireland, depicts the 1969 Battle of the Bogside* PHOTOGRAPH: PETER MORRISON/AP

a spokesperson for the Stop Attacks forum. "The rationale was to offer them resources and jobs, but some became very astute at having two personas. Those who did transition were replaced by those who were more involved in criminality."

For dissident republicans the main goal is to keep alive a flame of physical force republicanism they date from the 1916 Rising, when republicans launched an armed insurrection against British rule. The Real IRA, Continuity IRA and now the New IRA have waged attacks on security forces. They have negligible support and limited capacity to escalate attacks but their actions are unsettling.

Paramilitaries seek to exert control by assaulting supposed transgressors in working-class communities. Republicans shoot victims, while loyalists beat them, said Smyth. Social media posts that condone or trivialise attacks reflect a "societal shrug", he said. "People here feel this is how paramilitaries respond to antisocial behaviour."



▲ *The dissident republican Easter Monday parade in Derry last year*

For factions of the UDA and UVF the prime motivation is money. In addition to drugs and racketeering, they use loan sharking to lock vulnerable families into a debt trap. Some stake out food banks to identify targets, the BBC reported. A feud has triggered more than a dozen attacks in north County Down since March.

"It's a lucrative business," said Brian Anderson, a Methodist minister who runs the East Belfast Mission. Politicians, churches and other organisations should be more robust in challenging paramilitaries, he said. "Trafficking drugs and people is wrong; we need to say that. We've not been able to coalesce around an agreed agenda for the benefit of the community."

Unionist anxiety over Brexit's impact on Northern Ireland has bolstered loyalist paramilitary pretensions to defend the region's British identity, said Anderson.

Chris Hudson, a Unitarian minister who helped to broker the 1994 loyalist ceasefire, said Brexit and political drift had unravelled progress. "We have to engage again with those in paramilitary organisations that want to transition. We need to finish the job." Asked if 25 years was not long enough, Hudson said: "I don't think it is. It's an ongoing process. We don't know what date it all ends at."

'The racism was wild' How Belfast has become a more diverse place

Rory Carroll
Ireland correspondent

When Alan Lui moved from Hong Kong to Northern Ireland in 1981 he joined a Chinese community that was tiny, isolated and often abused.

Chinese migrants worked seven days a week, usually in shops and restaurants, and kept to themselves, says Lui.

"Life was very plain. We didn't go anywhere. The racism was wild. We were insulted in the street."

Four decades later the Chinese and other ethnic minority communities have proliferated in a more diverse and tolerant Northern Ireland.

It is an overlooked side-effect of the 1998 Good Friday agreement: as violence wound down, immigration jumped.

The 2001 census recorded 14,300 people, or 0.8% of the overall population, belonging to an ethnic minority. In 2011 that increased to 32,000 people, or 1.8%. By 2021 it was 65,600 people, or 3.4%.

From a tiny base the number of ethnic minority people has almost quintupled in 20 years.

Most have come from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Compared with other UK cities the proportion is still low, but the impact on Belfast has been striking, with the arrivals introducing new languages, flavours and music.

A joint BBC and Queen's University podcast series last year profiled families from Syria, Nigeria and Ethiopia who have made their home in Belfast.

Lui is a poster boy for the transformation. When he was 17 he was working in a takeaway in Cookstown, County Tyrone, enduring racial epithets. Now 59, he helps stage lunar new year celebrations at the Ulster Hall in Belfast.

The annual event in January packs the 1,000-seat venue and gets splashed across local media as a cultural highlight. The most recent show, marking the year of the rabbit, included African music and drew the deputy lord mayor and other dignitaries.

"Chinese people are more open and confident now," says Lui. "It's rare that people call you names in the street. There is a lot of respect for our culture. Three-quarters of the audiences we get at the Ulster Hall are not Chinese."

Lui, who obtained a master's degree in multimedia while juggling restaurant work, also teaches a course in lion dance, a traditional Chinese dance that mimics a lion's movement, at Queen's University Belfast.



▲ *Alan Lui, who moved to Northern Ireland in 1981 and got a master's while doing restaurant work, teaches a lion dance course* PHOTOGRAPHS: PAUL MCERLANE

> ***'The perception of migrants is that it's still a green and orange landscape'***
>
> **Kendall Bousquet**
> *Migrant Centre NI*

Neighbourhoods around the campus brim with a range of Asian and Middle Eastern shops and restaurants on a par with London melting pots.

The low cost of living compared with other parts of the UK, especially in housing, continues to act as a magnet.

Most migrants are highly skilled and more likely to have third-level qualifications than the native-born population, according to Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) research. Employment rates are high.

"One of the dividends of peace is that people do see Northern Ireland as a destination where they can lead safe lives," said Kendall Bousquet, an advocacy officer at Migrant Centre NI, which supports arrivals.

However prejudice and exclusion endure. Ethnic minorities are underrepresented in politics and other sectors of a society that is still largely divided between nationalism and unionism.

"The perception of migrant communities is that it's still a green and orange civic landscape. If you fall outside that binary, your issues are not considered high on the agenda," says Bousquet.

Compared with the Republic of Ireland, people in Northern Ireland are less likely to know migrants or to have positive views about them, according to the ESRI. About a 10th of international migrants are seeking asylum. Their experiences are mixed.

Behnam Ghazanfari Pour, 46, a musician from Iran who moved to Belfast 15 months ago, has wowed local audiences with his mastery of the santour, a 72-string instrument. He lauds people's friendliness and is grateful for help from the charity Beyond Skin.

But there are frustrations. Ghazanfari Pour is still waiting for an asylum interview. Home is a house crowded with other refugees.

His concerts are infrequent and he has not been able to use his other skill – insurance broking – so he works at a garden centre. "I could contribute so much more," he says.

Nasim Heidari, 30, also from Iran, says people have been supportive and kind during her 12 months in Northern Ireland. But lack of permission to work has impeded integration.

A trained architect, she would like to become a professional singer. Heidari recently began English lessons, a step to making Belfast home.

"It's a start," she says.



▲ *Nasim Heidari, left, and Behnam Ghazanfari Pour are both from Iran*

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Problem gamblers driven deeper into debt spiral amid cost of living crisis

Rachel Hall

People are turning to gambling to help them with the cost of living crisis - from trying to win money to pay bills to using betting shops as warm banks, a gambling charity has said.

The charity GamCare said that while this was likely to exacerbate financial stresses, research found 42% of problem gamblers believed that gambling would improve their financial situation in the next year compared with just 7% of UK adults.

The YouGov survey it commissioned, of 4,202 adults, also found that one in six people gambling at harmful levels had used a warm bank in the past 12 months compared with 5% of the general population, while half of parents who were problem gamblers were going without food or clean clothes to support children, compared with 20% of parents overall.

GamCare said January 2023 was its highest ever month for call volumes, with advisers regularly hearing reports of how the rising cost of living is affecting callers.

That included people who have been spending time in betting shops to keep warm and people on universal credit and disability benefits gambling to make extra money to cover their bills.

Anna Hemmings, the chief executive officer of GamCare, said the challenges of the cost of living crisis were "particularly acute" for gambling addicts.

"At GamCare, we know first-hand that gambling isn't a way to ease money worries, as well as how important it is to address the financial picture to support someone's longer-term recovery from harm," she said, adding that the charity was launching a new financial advice service.

The survey also showed that problem gamblers were seven times more likely than the rest of the UK population to say they would gamble more in the next 12 months as a result of the cost of living crisis (42% and 6%).

42%
Proportion of problem gamblers who believe they can improve their financial situation by gambling

50%
Proportion of problem-gambler parents going without food to feed their children, against 20% overall

Kieren Smith, a former gambling addict, recalled how gambling had felt like a tempting solution when he was struggling to afford rent and bills. "The financial difficulties added another justification for gambling," he said. "It was out of desperation - I saw gambling as the only opportunity to provide a short-term financial fix, which is a very scary place to be. You're almost running back to your abuser for help, but also it offers this amazing opportunity where one big win can sort it all out."

He said that mindset made it easier to keep chasing a big win rather than face up to the reality of debts already accrued and start the work of paying them back. "The danger is you become more and more isolated, more in debt. Ultimately you start to lose people and find yourself in a real state, and potentially suicidal."

Heather Wardle, a researcher in gambling harms at the University of Glasgow, and chair of the Lancet Public Health commission on gambling, said GamCare's survey was the first she had seen to look at gambling during the cost of living crisis, with "thought-provoking, if, sadly, not unexpected" results.

"During Covid, the industry was implored not to exploit people during an exceptionally vulnerable time. An assessment is needed of what measures the industry is being compelled to take to ensure that people are not harmed or exploited by its products and practices during the cost of living crisis," she said.

The most recent data release from the Gambling Commission showed that though gambling levels remained steady in December 2022, there were significant increases in people buying national lottery tickets, including those at moderate risk of gambling harm.

This echoed a study of gambling in Iceland after the financial crash, which showed that lottery sales surged though other forms of gambling remained steady or declined.

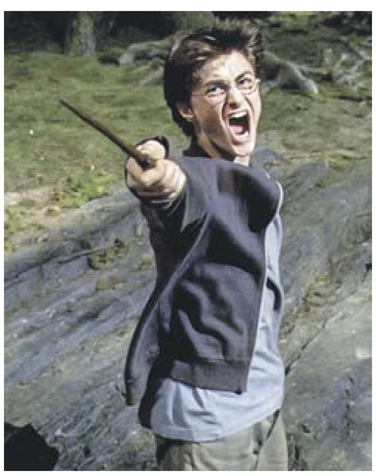
Magic show

Harry Potter devotees divided over TV series

Nadia Khomami
Arts and culture correspondent



▲ *Harry Potter fans posing at Platform 9¾ in King's Cross station, London*



▼ *Speculation is rife as to who would be Harry*
PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MCKENNA/ALAMY

At Platform 9¾ in King's Cross station, Harry Potter devotees from around the world gathered to have their picture taken in front of one of the book's most celebrated locations.

Fans of all ages were enthused by a particular story that took the internet by storm this week - that a long-rumoured Potter TV series could be in the works after reports that a deal was imminent between HBO Max and JK Rowling.

After a Bloomberg report indicated that each season of a series would focus on one of the seven books, global Google searches for "Harry Potter cast" jumped by 250%.

"It's something we've been saying should happen for a long time," said 30-year-old Sofia Correa, who was visiting London from Spain with her husband and baby.

She added: "A TV series could include everything from the books that was left out of the movies. For example, in the books Ron is really smart, he's an amazing wizard, and in the movies he seems like an idiot. Ginny also developed a great personality in the books after growing up with seven brothers, but in the films she's kind of lame. If you had one episode per chapter of a book, you could have all the details that were missing."

Similarly, Noelle Alcom, 31, who was visiting from San Diego, said a TV series would be an opportunity to stay more true to the books. "Peeves was so funny in the books but he was completely left out of the films.

"In Goblet of Fire, there was so much that would have been cool to show in the movies which they never did. They also didn't include any of Dudley's redeeming qualities. They could get a lot of those details in."

"I'm very excited because it gives a chance for my generation to enjoy Harry Potter in a new way," said 19-year-old Simon Hippenstial from Berlin, who was in a long queue snaking around the Harry Potter gift shop.

"It could also introduce the books to new fans - it will open up a new world to so many people and change their minds."

He added: "I think it's really important that they ask the fans what they'd like to see. I'm hoping it will tell a different story to the films. I'd like more about Voldemort and his backstory, building on the information we got in The Half-Blood Prince."

When reports of the new TV series emerged, opinion online was divided. While the Potter franchise is one of the biggest cultural success stories of the 21st century - the books, films, theatre show and video games are worth an estimated $25bn (£20bn) - some Potter fans feel they can no longer support Rowling's work because of her comments on gender identity.

Mike Schubert, who documented his journey of reading the Potter books as an adult in the popular podcast Potterless - which has been downloaded more than 78m times and has over 600,000 subscribers - said this was the reason he was not excited by the news.

"I'm sure it will be a success in terms of viewership and it's a great opportunity to see things on screen that were left on the cutting room floor from the films, but I don't think it's a good idea," he told the Guardian. "JK Rowling's involvement in the project and profiting from it is the biggest issue I have. Beyond that, though, the movies are still fairly recent and beloved, so I don't see the need to retell the same stories."

HBO's parent company, Warner Bros, which produced the original Potter film franchise, has retained close links with Rowling and signed previous deals with the author for the spin-off series, Fantastic Beasts, as well as a theme park.

But the author was absent from the Harry Potter 20th anniversary reunion special, which featured cast members from the films reminiscing about working together and bringing the magic of the books to the screen.

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint have previously spoken out against Rowling's remarks on transgender issues, while Helena Bonham Carter and Ralph Fiennes have defended the author.

Others said a TV show could be an opportunity to improve on the books and films' perceived lack of racial and queer diversity, especially after Rowling said Dumbledore was gay.

Warner Bros declined to comment, and nor did representatives for Rowling respond.

Hundreds of homeless families being housed in B&Bs beyond legal limit

Sammy Gecsoyler

The number of homeless families being housed in hotels and B&Bs by English councils beyond the legal time limit has doubled within a year, figures reveal.

The latest figures released by the government show 1,210 families were in hotels and B&Bs for longer than the six-week legal limit between 1 July and 30 September 2022, up from 570 for the same period in 2021. These are the highest figures since 2017.

A total of 11,490 homeless households spent time in hotels and B&Bs in the same period in 2022, the highest number since 2003.

The problem is particularly acute in London. According to data from London Councils, there was a 180% increase in families being housed in hotels and B&Bs for more than six weeks from 2021 to 2022.

Families living in temporary accommodation often have no access to cooking and laundry facilities and have to pay for launderettes, storage services and takeaway food.

Piotr Rembikowski, 46, has been living with his wife, Madga, 44, and two sons aged 15 and 20 in a Travelodge in Enfield, north London, since August last year. They are one of 200 families currently being housed in commercial hotels by Enfield council.

Rembikowski is a wheelchair user and has a reconstructed bowel owing to colitis. The family were made homeless when their privately rented property, where they had lived for 16 years, burned down last year after a fire spread from a nearby construction site. Rembikowski said he was unable to find another place for them to live because of the high cost of renting privately and because he is on disability benefits. "I called many agencies but nobody wants to rent to a crippled person in a wheelchair," he said.

> *'Nobody wants to rent to a person in a wheelchair'*
>
> **Piotr Rembikowski**
> *Father of two*



The Rembikowskis in their hotel room PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN/THE GUARDIAN

He was told by letting agents he would need to have a household income of £54,000 to rent a three-bedroom home. He reported to Enfield council that he and his family were homeless, and they were housed in the Travelodge.

Rembikowski has turned down food from a food bank because there is nowhere to store or cook it. Owing to his health problems, he usually has to follow a strict diet but a lack of cooking facilities means he relies on dry or takeaway foods. "It has badly affected my health," he said.

As well as spending £50 a week to wash clothes at a nearby launderette, he has to pay for storage for belongings that survived the fire. "I have had to borrow money from family members," he said.

Sylvia Natukunda, 43, has been living in the same Travelodge with her husband and two sons, Simon, 14, and Stephen, 13, since December last year after their house caught fire. Travelodge policy requires them to move rooms every 28 days.

Natukunda, a care worker, and her husband, a nurse, both work irregular shift patterns including nights. As they often sleep during the day after coming home from work, and the Travelodge is situated next to the A10, their sons have little choice but to stay in the room and be quiet. "There is nowhere safe for them to play outside," Natukunda said.

Paula Barker, the shadow minister for homelessness and rough sleeping, said: "These latest figures should shame the Conservative government.

"Too many families are placed in unsuitable accommodation and far too many children find themselves there for longer than the six-week statutory maximum. The effects on these children are profound."

An Enfield council spokesperson said: "We are competing with 21 other London boroughs and the Home Office, who all look for homes in Enfield … at least 6,000 homes in the borough are used by other councils and government departments.

"The housing challenges in the borough require national action to address the fundamental shortfall of affordable housing."

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities did not respond to a request for comment.



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'Law not war' Nuremberg Nazi trials' last surviving prosecutor dies at 103

Nadia Khomami

Seventy-six years ago, at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg - once the site of annual torchlit Nazi rallies - Ben Ferencz, a punchy 27-year-old whose short build was all but concealed behind the tall wooden podium, opened the biggest murder trial in history.

It was his first ever trial, but all 22 members of the Einsatzgruppen he was prosecuting - Nazi extermination squads responsible for the murder of a million Jews and other minorities - were duly convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Ferencz, the last surviving prosecutor of the Nuremberg trials, died on Friday in Florida at the age of 103. Present as a US soldier at the liberation of Nazi concentration camps, Ferencz went on to play a key role in the establishment of the international criminal court (ICC) in the 1990s.

He was hailed as an "icon in international criminal justice" by Fatou Bensouda, former chief prosecutor of the ICC, after decades of international legal work and campaigning for peace and justice.

"Vengeance is not our goal, nor do we seek merely a just retribution," Ferencz said in his opening statement at Nuremberg in 1947. "The case we present is a plea of humanity to law."

I first encountered Ferencz when I interviewed him for the Guardian, and was immediately struck by how upbeat and witty he was. We went on to write a book together, Parting Words - the result of dozens of conversations over many months about his life and the lessons he wanted to leave for young people.

Despite an ocean and seven decades between us, we turned out to have a lot in common: bridging backgrounds, nations and identities was something Ferencz was a great believer in.





▲ *Ben Ferencz acted as chief prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen trial (1947-48), left, which convicted 22 members of Nazi death squads of war crimes and crimes against humanity*

PHOTOGRAPHS: ACTION PRESS/SHUTTERSTOCK; EVERETT COLLECTION/ ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

We were both refugees who emigrated at a young age and grew up in tough neighbourhoods. We both taught ourselves English through friendships and subtitled movies. We were the first in our immediate families to go to university, where we studied law. We even had the same birthday - though each time I reminded him of that, he warned me: "Don't go doing anything bad and ruining my birthday, kid."

Ferencz witnessed more in his lifetime than most, and talking to him was like thumbing through the pages of a great American novel. He was born into a Jewish family in Transylvania in 1920 and moved to New York as an infant. He won a scholarship to Harvard, joined the US army, and fought his way from the beaches of Normandy through the Battle of the Bulge and the Maginot and Siegfried defence lines.

After he was transferred to General Patton's headquarters in 1944, Ferencz was given the job of setting up a new war crimes branch.

He was present at, or arrived soon after, the liberation of concentration camps including Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Flossenbürg and Ebensee, scouring for evidence of Nazi crimes to present at trial. He dug up bodies from shallow graves, sometimes with his bare hands, and witnessed scenes of unadulterated horror that haunted him for the rest of his life.

He later led efforts to return confiscated property to Holocaust survivors, and took part in reparations negotiations between Israel and West Germany.

As the US intensified its war in Vietnam in the 1960s, Ferencz withdrew from private legal practice and devoted himself to campaigning for peace, always returning to his favourite slogan of "law not war". He wrote several books setting out the case for an international legal body, which would later come to fruition in the establishment of the ICC.

For his work he received many awards, including the Medal of Freedom from Harvard, and donated millions of dollars to the Holocaust museum's genocide prevention centre. "I don't care about glory, I don't care about money," he told me. "I came into the world as a pauper, I lived most of my early life in poverty, and now I'm giving it all back."

Ferencz was keen to leave behind multiple lessons for young people, including the importance of following dreams, cherishing love and speaking your truth even when no one's listening.

"It's only by understanding another person's way of thinking that you'll be able to reason with them and change their mind," he told me. "The powerful will always be afraid of anyone trying to curb their power;" and "everything is impossible until it's done".

Above all, Ferencz remained a person of unbounded optimism and belief in the goodness of people, despite everything he had witnessed. No matter where we're from or what we do, he insisted at age 100, we have more in common with one another than we know, and united we are stronger.

Progress, Ferencz would say, is not immediate, but slow-moving and complex. Miracles can still be performed. Weren't changes such as the end of colonialism and slavery, the rights of women and even landing on the moon not inconceivable a few decades ago?

When I originally tried to convince Ferencz to write Parting Words, he was adamant he didn't have the time. "You don't know how busy I am, my dear. I'm so busy I don't have time to die."

While he's finally found his time to rest, Ferencz's legacy will endure - including the three pieces of advice he was always quick to dish out to anyone who would listen. "One: never give up. Two: never give up. Three? Never give up."

Police investigate new claims against rapist David Carrick

Helen Pidd

More than 10 people have contacted police investigating further allegations of offences by David Carrick since the disgraced Metropolitan police officer was jailed in February, Hertfordshire police have said.

The 48-year-old was jailed for life with a minimum tariff of 32 years in February after pleading guilty to 85 serious offences, including 48 rapes.

The attacks on 12 women between 2003 and 2020 took place while he was a Met police officer. He met some of his victims online via dating apps, luring others into relationships.

Yesterday, Hertfordshire police said it continued to investigate further allegations against Carrick, along with other police forces.

"Since David Carrick pleaded guilty and was sentenced at court in February, more than 10 people have contacted their local forces or the investigation team directly, to either report further offences, including sexual assault, or to share information relating to him. The team are now working with the Crown Prosecution Service and investigating these new allegations," a spokesperson said.

Sentencing Carrick, the judge, Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb, said he had behaved as if he was "untouchable" inflicting "irretrievable destruction" on at least 12 women before intimidating them into silence.

Information and support for anyone affected by rape or sexual abuse issues is available from Rape Crisis on 0808 802 9999 in England and Wales, 0808 801 0302 in Scotland, or 0800 0246 991 in Northern Ireland.

Murder inquiry after man is shot dead in Sheffield

Helen Pidd
North of England editor

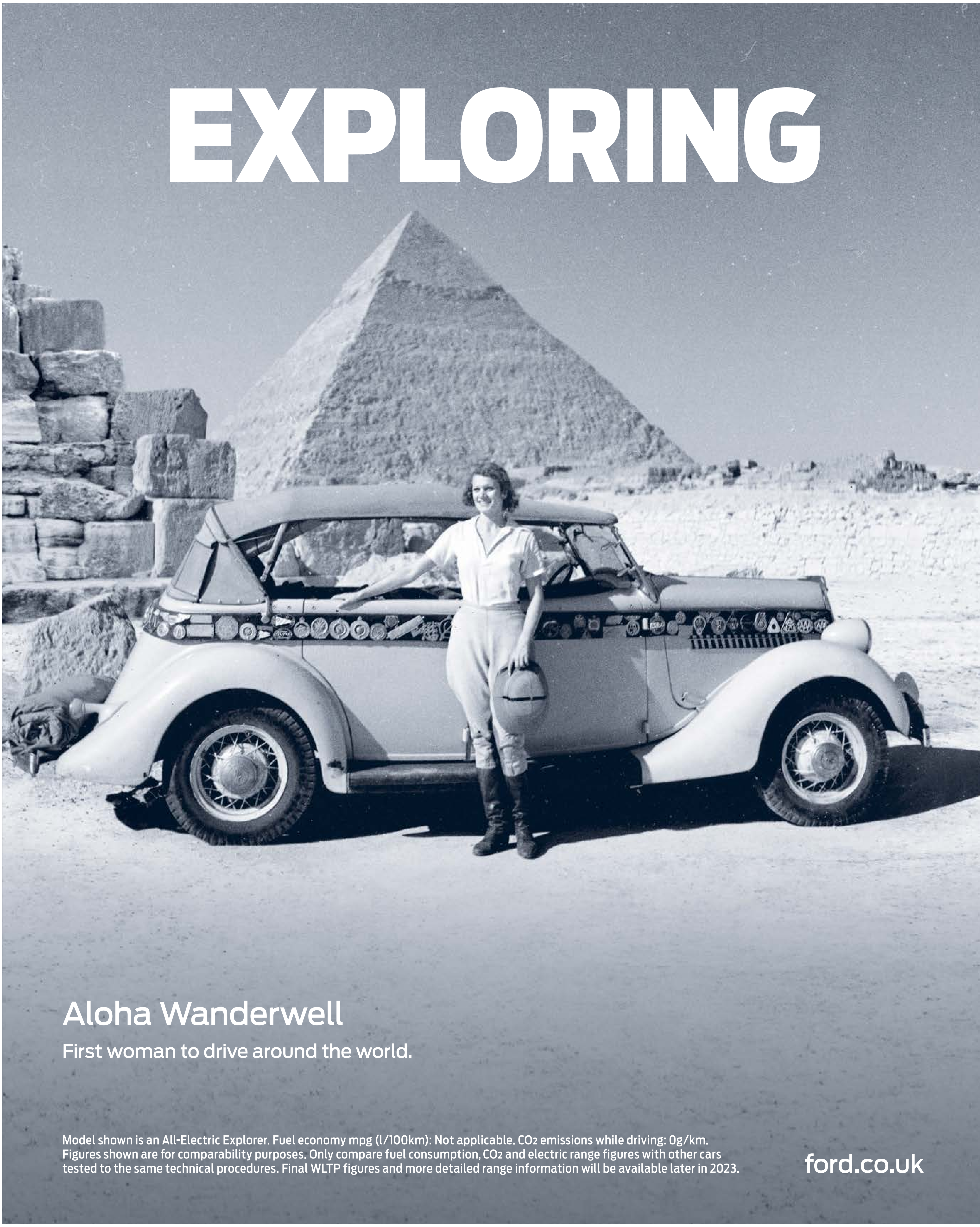
A murder investigation has been launched after a man in his 20s was shot dead in Sheffield.

Shortly after 1.30am yesterday, emergency services called to the Gleadless Valley housing estate in the south of the city found a man with serious gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene. His family have been told but formal identification and a postmortem have yet to take place.

DCI Phil Etheridge, of South Yorkshire police, said: "Incidents of this nature understandably cause significant worry and concern among our communities, and we've had a number of specialist resources in the area since the early hours trying to piece together what happened.

"I want to take this opportunity to urge anyone out there who might know something to come forward."

Gun crime in South Yorkshire has increased recently, with 301 firearms offences recorded between October 2021 and September 2022, a 19% increase from the previous year.


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World



◀ Israeli police escort Jewish visitors marking Passover to the al-Aqsa mosque, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem
PHOTOGRAPH: MAHMOUD ILLEAN/AP

Holiday rites pass without clashes in Jerusalem but Middle East braces for further violence

Bethan McKernan
Jerusalem

Simultaneous Muslim and Jewish holiday rites at Jerusalem's flashpoint Temple Mount or al-Aqsa mosque passed without major clashes yesterday after rare cross-border airstrikes and rocket fire between Israel and Syria overnight, and fears of wider conflict in the Middle East after escalation on multiple fronts.

About 15,000 Jewish worshippers gathered yesterday morning at the Western Wall in occupied East Jerusalem, the holiest site at which Jews can pray, for a benediction prayer marking Passover. At the same time, thousands of Palestinians performed dawn and midday prayers at al-Aqsa, on the other side of the wall, as part of observances during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Christian pilgrims in the Old City marked Easter Sunday, in a rare convergence of celebrations in the three faiths.

Tensions over access to the Temple Mount - sacred to both Judaism and Islam - have triggered cross-frontier fighting between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip, but have also drawn in Lebanon and now Syria.

While Sunday's festivities were conducted peacefully under a heavy Israeli police presence, the region remains braced for further violence.

Overnight, Israel bombarded Syrian military targets in the vicinity of the capital, Damascus, in response to a salvo of six rockets launched towards the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, all of which fell on open ground or were intercepted by air defence systems.

The Israeli army said it had used artillery and drones to hit the rocket launchers and had carried out airstrikes on an army compound, military radar systems and artillery posts belonging to the Syrian army.

Israel has carried out thousands of attacks in Syria over the course of the 12-year-old civil war, aimed at sabotaging Iranian entrenchment, but rarely acknowledges them.

The ayatollahs of Tehran have vowed the Jewish state's destruction, and are allied with Palestinian groups, the Damascus regime and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

A wing of the Iranian-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad group based in Damascus claimed responsibility for the rocket attack, al-Mayadeen TV in Lebanon reported, saying that it was retaliating for Israeli police violence against Muslim worshippers at al-Aqsa. Israel's defence ministry said in a statement it held the Syrian state "responsible for all activities occurring within its territory and will not allow any attempts to violate Israeli sovereignty".



▲ Jewish worshippers opposite the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City

No casualties were reported on either side, suggesting the attacks were limited in scope, but the launches from Syrian territory followed a barrage of rocket fire towards Israel from Lebanon on Thursday - the biggest flare-up between the two countries since a short war with the militant group Hezbollah in 2006.

Although Israel said it believed the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas was behind the attack from Lebanon, it is unlikely it was carried out without coordination with Hezbollah.

Rocket fire blamed on Hamas from the blockaded Gaza Strip on two consecutive nights last week, which was met with Israeli airstrikes, and continued "lone wolf" Palestinian attacks that killed three people in the occupied West Bank and Tel Aviv over the weekend, added to the complex and combustible atmosphere.

Hezbollah said in a statement yesterday that its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, had met the Qatar-based chief of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

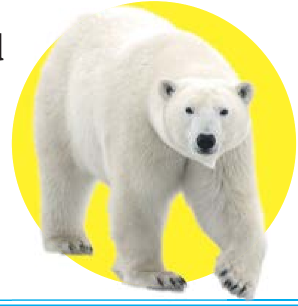
The two discussed "the intensification of resistance in the West Bank and Gaza" and "events at al-Aqsa mosque", the group said, without specifying when they had met.

The funeral for two British-Israeli sisters, Maia and Rina Dee, aged 20 and 15, killed in a shooting in the Jordan valley, took place yesterday evening at a cemetery in the Jewish settlement of Kfar Etzion in the West Bank. No suspects have yet been identified in the attack.

An Italian tourist, Alessandro Parini, 35, a lawyer from Rome, had arrived in Tel Aviv a few hours before he was killed in a car-ramming on the city's beachside promenade on Friday. The driver, an Arab-Israeli

'This was paradise'
Ukrainian spa town resisting the Russians
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Bearing down
Climate strife in 'world polar bear capital'
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citizen, was shot dead at the scene. On Saturday, 20-year-old Ayed Salim was shot dead by Israeli forces during an incident in which the military said it had used live fire on Palestinians throwing stones and explosive devices in the West Bank town of Azzun.

Under a longstanding compromise implemented after the Israeli occupation began in 1967, non-Muslims are allowed to visit but not pray at the Temple Mount, known in Islam as al-Haram al-Sharif or al-Aqsa, and any perceived attempt to alter the arrangement is a lightning rod for violence. In recent years, however, the site has hosted growing numbers of Jewish visitors, some of whom discreetly pray, stoking Palestinian suspicions that Israel may one day try to take over the site, which is currently administered by Jordan.

Israeli officials have repeatedly promised that they intend to maintain the delicate status quo.

However, last year's election of a new government, which includes far-right, anti-Arab agitators in senior positions, has compounded Palestinian worries.

Palestinians who had barricaded themselves in a prayer hall at al-Aqsa mosque on Wednesday night over fears that Jewish ultranationalists would attempt a traditional sacrifice for the start of Passover were forcibly removed by Israeli police in a raid that caused 14 injuries and led to hundreds of arrests.

Video of the confrontations at the third holiest site in Islam, showing officers hitting worshippers with the butts of rifles and batons, were met with outrage across the Muslim world and triggered the cross-border standoffs.

Israel is also facing significant domestic turmoil: demonstrations against the prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to overhaul the judiciary continued for a 14th week across the country on Saturday night despite the heightened tensions.

The prime minister's office yesterday rejected claims raised in documents allegedly leaked from the Pentagon that leaders of its foreign intelligence service, the Mossad, had supported the nationwide protests.

The biggest protest movement in Israeli history has drawn widespread support from former defence and security officials and military reservists, leading to concerns about operational readiness. Netanyahu technically fired his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, two weeks ago over his opposition to the judicial changes, but he appears to have remained in post.

At least 93 Palestinians, of whom about half are militants and half civilians, have been killed since January, according to rights groups.

In Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis, 20 people including two foreign nationals have been killed, making 2023 the deadliest start to the year in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank since the second intifada, or Palestinian uprising, of the 2000s.

Analysis
Bethan McKernan



Israelis elected Netanyahu to protect them. To many, it looks as if he is delivering the opposite

On Friday afternoon, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, found himself standing at the side of a remote road in the vast desert valley that runs the length of the occupied West Bank's frontier with Jordan.

Along with his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, Netanyahu was inspecting the scene of a shooting attack earlier in the day that killed the British-Israeli sisters Maia and Rina Dee, 20 and 15, and left their 45-year-old mother, Lucianne, fighting for her life. An Israel Defence Forces (IDF) search for the perpetrator is still under way.

"For this challenge, we are standing united, unified, sure of our righteousness," Netanyahu said in comments broadcast by Israeli television. "We will act together with total backing for our forces."

For many Israelis, his remarks rang hollow. Israel faced flare-ups in violence last week on almost every front – East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria – and the security establishment has been unnerved by the sudden rapprochement between Saudi Arabia, the region's geopolitical heavyweight, with which Israel is seeking warmer ties, and the country's arch-foe, Iran. As if the intersecting border crises were not enough, Israel is also undergoing unprecedented upheaval at home sparked by the government's bitterly contested plan to overhaul the judiciary.

Dozens of former senior defence, security and intelligence officials have voiced opposition to the proposals, which would weaken the supreme court, on the grounds they are anti-democratic. Israel's crucial military reservists, including almost all of those serving in the most important air force unit, have joined the nationwide protests, setting alarm bells ringing over the reliability of chains of command and operational capacity.

Gallant may have been standing by his side as the two men pledged to find the Dee sisters' killer, but two weeks ago, Netanyahu fired him after he became the first senior government official to voice objections to the judicial changes.

Public pressure quickly forced the prime minister to back down and announce that legislation weakening the supreme court would be postponed until after the Knesset's Passover recess, but the lingering uncertainty over Gallant's position, and the appointment of the inflammatory national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, does not exactly convey strength and stability – particularly now.

Leaked Pentagon documents that surfaced on Saturday suggesting the Mossad, Israel's spy agency, had encouraged both its staff and the Israeli public to participate in the protest movement have added to a growing perception among Israel's many foes that such internal discord represents a major opportunity.

"I served in the army for decades, and did not see behaviour as reckless as that of Netanyahu now," Moshe Ya'alon, a former defence minister and IDF chief of staff, said at a protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday night.

"His obsessive plot to overturn Israel's democracy represents an immediate threat to Israel's security … Our enemies are watching, and our deterrence is waning."

Despite corruption scandals and a colourful private life, during his previous five stints as prime minister, Netanyahu was always seen as a safe pair of hands when it came to Israel's security. Now, even among the rightwing public that voted in the current coalition of extremist and ultra-religious parties, dwindling support suggests that image is fading, and the Israeli leader could once again be forced out of office.

A total of 69% of voters gave the government a bad grade on its first 100 days in office, according to polling released by Israel's Channel 12 yesterday.

Hebrew media reported over the weekend that government sources had suggested they would be forced to launch a major military operation in the coming weeks, after the conclusion of the sensitive overlapping Passover and Ramadan holiday period, in order to bolster legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

They are right to point out that Israel's government was elected on a platform promising order and security. So far, it has delivered the exact opposite.



Filmmakers including Ken Loach have joined protests against the closure of the Astor in Athens, which opened in the 1940s and is now due to be turned into an office building
PHOTOGRAPH: EUROPA CINEMAS

Directors in fight to save cinemas to stop Athens 'losing soul'

Helena Smith
Athens

The spectre of two historic cinemas in the heart of Athens being closed by commercial interests bent on turning the buildings into a hotel and office block has spurred filmmakers into joining protests against the move.

Directors of international acclaim have appealed to save the movie theatres amid mounting public disquiet over the pace of development in one of Europe's oldest capitals.

Leading the charge, Costas Gavras, the film director who shot to fame with the political drama Z, called the existence of the Ideal and Astor cinemas indispensable for the enjoyment of film in an era when the "barbarism" of movies being watched on TV and mobile phones was widespread.

"I visited these two picture houses frequently in my youth," he said, appealing to "the culture patriotism" of Lina Mendoni, the cultural minister, "to save these theatres".

In a similar video message, the Oscar-nominated Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos underlined the "social and cultural value" of the two venues "in the centre of such a city".

Last week more than 5,000 cinephiles packed into the Astor, which opened in the 1940s, to demonstrate against the closure of the cinemas.

As debate has turned to the thorny question of tourism's reach in an area where residents have been ejected from homes to make way for rental platforms such as Airbnb, the cinemas appear to be a tipping point.

'We're not against tourism but people have to understand this is where we live'

Andreas Kontarakis
Film distributor

For critics who complain of Athens' central boulevards becoming ever more deserted, the campaign has highlighted fears over policies seen as endangering lifestyles.

Both the Astor and the Ideal are housed in buildings owned by the national social security fund, EFKA.

The state body recently announced it had leased the magisterial block incorporating the Ideal to a hospitality group, which unveiled plans to transform it into a luxury hotel – a €36m (£32m) project that would, the firm said, create "150 jobs".

The building housing the Astor, which has been similarly leased, is due to be turned into offices.

Responding to the outcry, the cultural ministry has argued the cinemas fail to meet the criteria for enhanced protection as listed buildings – unlike open-air summer cinemas that have been granted protection.

In contrast, the mayor of Athens, Kostas Bakoyannis, believes preservation orders should be placed on the cinemas, telling last week's protest gathering: "Yes, we want economic growth and yes we want investments and visitors. What we don't want is Athens losing its soul."

Echoing that view, Andreas Kontarakis, a film distributor who has resurrected five cinemas that had long been abandoned in the city centre, told the Guardian that a compromise had to be found where investors made use of the buildings but kept the cinemas intact.

"We're not against tourism but people have to understand that this is where we live. The centre of Athens is becoming deserted partly because of the attack on every form of culture which now includes the cinemas they want to close. Soon, only double-decker red tourist buses will be allowed to circulate [downtown]."

The British director Ken Loach has also joined the protest, describing the two cinemas where his films have frequently been screened as "part of the city's culture, part of its history".

Campaigners have also found backing from the country's president, Katerina Sakellaropoulou.

In a Facebook post, she bemoaned a city that was "in danger of losing its memory" with the loss of landmarks such as cafes, cinemas and theatres that were also, she wrote, part of its identity.

Eyewitness



▼ Tokyo, Japan
Dancers perform during the Shirasagi-no Mai (White Heron Dance) at the Sensoji temple in Asakusa. The parade, which originated in the 8th-12th centuries in Kyoto, was revived in 1968 for Tokyo's centenary and is now held twice a year, in April and November
PHOTOGRAPH: TOMOHIRO OHSUMI/GETTY IMAGES



'Nightmare' leak of Pentagon files on Moscow, US allies and war in Ukraine

Philip Oltermann
Berlin

A large cache of classified Pentagon documents circulating on various social media channels is becoming a growing source of anxiety for the US intelligence community, as numerous allies have been forced into denials over the purported leaks.

Half a dozen photographs of printed classified documents, mostly pertaining to the state of the Ukraine war as of the beginning of March, started to be shared on Russian Telegram channels in the middle of last week, even though research by the open-source intelligence outfit Bellingcat suggests they made the rounds on niche gaming image boards for several weeks beforehand.

On Friday, a further batch of more than 100 Pentagon documents was being shared on Twitter, seemingly revealing confidential information that US spy agencies had obtained not just about Russia and its war of aggression against Kyiv, but also about supposed allies such as Israel and South Korea.

While at least some of the images from the first leak appeared crudely altered, the authenticity of the latest batch has not been immediately questioned, with the New York Times describing the leak as "a nightmare for the Five Eyes" - the intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US.

The office of Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, issued a statement yesterday in which it firmly rejected a claim made in one of the leaked documents, that the Israeli foreign intelligence agency had encouraged its staff and Israeli citizens to participate in March's wave of anti-government protests across the country.

"The Mossad and its serving senior personnel have not engaged in the issue of the demonstrations at all and are dedicated to the value of service to the state that has guided the Mossad since its founding," the statement read.

> ***'The Mossad and its senior personnel have not engaged in the issue of the demonstrations'***
>
> **Office of Israel's PM, denying a claim in one of the leaked files**

The leaked document, labelled top secret, said that in February senior Mossad officials "advocated for Mossad officials and Israeli citizens to protest the new Israeli Government's proposed judicial reforms, including several explicit calls to action that decried the Israeli Government, according to signals intelligence". Mossad is not meant to wade into domestic political matters.

Government officials in South Korea, meanwhile, said yesterday they were aware that another leaked document suggested that US intelligence had spied on its allies in Seoul, and were planning to "have necessary consultations with the US side" over issues raised by the leak.

At least two of the leaked Pentagon documents, based at least in part on intercepted foreign intelligence communications, describe South Korean concern over US pressure to aid Ukraine in its defensive effort against Russia, with the former foreign minister Yi Mun-hui expressing concern that artillery shells requested by Washington for its own use could ultimately end up in Kyiv's hands.

South Korea's longstanding official policy is to not provide lethal weapons to countries at war. The South Korean presidential official, speaking to reporters, declined to further respond to questions about US spying or to confirm any details from the leaked documents.

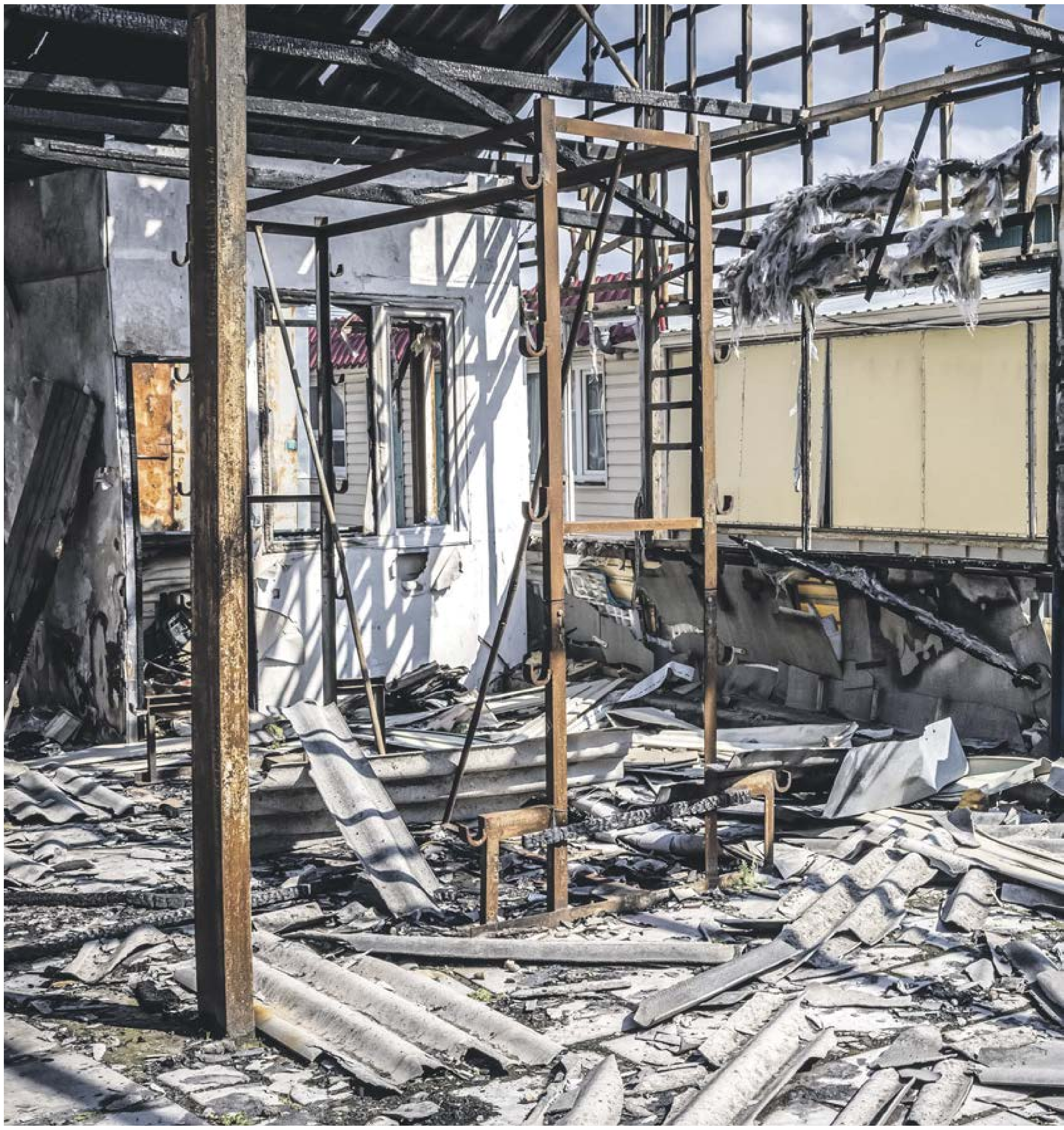
While potentially hugely embarrassing for the Pentagon, the leaked documents also paint a flattering portrait of the US's ability to penetrate Russian military planning, including the internal plans of the notorious Wagner mercenary group. The leaked documents show the mercenary outfit's ambition to operate in African states as well as Haiti, and that it had hatched plans to covertly source arms from Turkey, a Nato member.

On Saturday evening France's defence ministry denied the presence of French soldiers in Ukraine, as allegedly revealed in one of the leaked documents.

The first batch of leaked Pentagon documents contained charts and details about anticipated weapons deliveries, battalion strengths and losses on the battlefield. One slide suggested that a small contingent of less than a hundred special operations personnel from Nato members France, the US, the UK and Latvia were already active in Ukraine.

Some of the circulated documents have been obviously digitally altered.

Kyiv has said the leaked files contain "fictitious information". The US justice department said it had opened an investigation into the leaks.



'It was paradise' Russian onslaught leaves trail of death and destruction in once idyllic coastal holiday resort

Despite media being banned from Ochakiv, **Luke Harding** gains access to see how war has scarred the tourist town. Photographs by **Ed Ram**

The view from the Ukrainian town of Ochakiv appears idyllic. Beyond the beach, a narrow strip of land stretches out across the sea. The peninsula in Mykolaiv province is known as the Kinburn spit. In happier times holidaymakers would take a boat from Ochakiv and camp among the dunes. The nature reserve is home to pelicans and migrating birds.

But last June it got a new and unwelcome visitor: Russia. Soldiers captured the rustic territory, with its summer houses and mini-lakes, and turned it into a military base. Ever since the Russian army has bombarded Ochakiv, which is five miles (8km) away. Truck-mounted launchers release Grad missiles, sending them over the Black Sea. Afterwards the crews speed off and take cover amid the mazy sands.

On Friday, the Russians launched their biggest attack yet. At 5am they hit Ochakiv with 72 rockets. Another 50 fell in the district. The barrage lasted for over an hour. The town's 7,000 residents woke in darkness to the sound of explosions. Thermite projectiles fell from the sky and bathed the waterfront in a strange white light.

"They are swine, savages. They are killing peaceful people," Serhii Kaminiev, a 52-year-old coffee shop owner, said. Kaminiev's cafe is in Ochakiv's central market. One of the Grads landed on the roof of a business selling clothes, setting it on fire. The pavilion was a twisted ruin. Charred T-shirts lay in a heap. Homeless dogs wandered among alleys of broken glass.

Aram Alaverdov, a security guard, said it was impossible to predict when the Russians might strike. "It's good morning, good afternoon and good night," he said wryly. He added: "In my view Vladimir Putin should be strongly punished. He's worse than Hitler. Ukraine is like a shield protecting the whole of Europe. If we crack he will keep going."

Before Putin's invasion, Ochakiv was a popular spa resort. In the past many of its tourists came from Russia. "It was paradise," Alaverdov said. "We are surrounded by water. You could swim, pick mushrooms in the forest or go fishing." The attacks meant locals had lost their livelihoods and lived in a state of stress, wondering when the next bomb would land, he said.

Friday's raid damaged residential buildings, a gas pipeline

Eight people missing in Marseille after blast destroys flats

Agencies

Eight people are not responding to calls and are thought to be under the rubble of two buildings that collapsed in an explosion early yesterday in Marseille, local officials said.

The cause of the explosion in the southern French city was not yet known, said the Marseille prosecutor, Dominique Laurens.

The collapse caused a fire that has complicated rescue efforts and investigations, and it has not yet been brought under control, she told a news conference yesterday evening.

A gas explosion was "clearly" one of the possible causes, she added.

Television footage showed clouds of smoke rising from the rubble as firefighters tried to put out the fire, while trained dogs were used to try to locate victims.

"We have nothing, not even an ID card. We have lost everything," said a man who gave his name as Roland in an interview with local newspaper La Provence. He managed to get out of the building on 15 Rue de Tivoli with his wife and two children before it collapsed, together with a neighbouring building. A third building partly collapsed.

Five people were taken to hospital with serious but not life-threatening injuries. The interior minister, Gérald Darmanin, who visited the site, said 30 buildings in the area were evacuated.



◀ *The collapsed apartment block, where rescue efforts continued last night. Five people were taken to hospital with injuries*
PHOTOGRAPH: ORIANNE CIANTAR OLIVE/EPA

About 180 residents were put up in schools, while an aid centre for people looking for missing family members or loved ones was opened in a neighbouring district.

"We have to be prepared to have fatalities in this terrible tragedy," the Marseille mayor, Benoît Payan, had earlier told journalists at the scene.

"I was sleeping and there was this huge blast that really shook the room. I was shocked awake as if I had been dreaming," said Saveria Mosnier, who lives in a street near the site in the La Plaine neighbourhood. "We very quickly smelled a strong gas odour that hung around. We could still smell it this morning."

It is unclear how many people were inside the collapsed buildings. "Not all the people who were supposedly inside … have been seen. Families are worried," the French housing minister, Olivier Klein, told the broadcaster Franceinfo.

"We have to be very cautious about what the cause was at this stage," said Christophe Mirmand, the prefect of the southern Bouches-du-Rhône region. Gas was "one possible option", he said.

Gilles, who lives on a sidestreet near the building, told AFP the sound of the crash "was huge". "It sounded like an explosion," he said.

Eight people were killed in Marseille in 2018 when two dilapidated buildings in the working-class district of Noailles caved in. It cast a harsh light on the city's housing standards, with aid groups saying 40,000 people lived in shoddy structures.

But authorities appeared to rule out structural issues in the latest collapse, in a neighbourhood known for its bars and nightlife.

"There was no danger notice for this building, and it is not in a neighbourhood identified as having substandard housing," said Mirmand.

AFP and Reuters contributed to this report

Carnivore capital The hunt for the perfect shot where polar bears roam

Zed Nelson
Churchill, Canada

Perched on the southern edge of the Arctic on the shores of Hudson Bay, residents of the Canadian town of Churchill share their streets with the world's largest land carnivore. Their regular encounters with polar bears have earned Churchill the nickname "polar bear capital of the world".

The bears inhabit the sea ice, but in summer, when the ice melts, they come ashore to await the next freeze in November. By October, several hundred are wandering towards the bay. Their path takes them past, or through, Churchill.

The 900 or so residents are used to looking cautiously around corners and not walking after dark. But it's the bears that could claim a grievance: the town was built on their annual migratory route.

Churchill grew up around an 18th-century fur-trading post, a whaling station and a second world war US military base. During the cold war, the human population peaked at about 5,000 as the military facilities grew.

The rubbish dump that sprang from these facilities attracted hungry polar bears, and by the 1960s they had become a public safety concern. On 17 November 1968, a polar bear mauled and killed a 19-year-old man.





▲ *Sparring polar bears and, left, a solitary bear outside Churchill, on the animals' annual migratory route*
PHOTOGRAPHS: ZED NELSON

When the US military pulled out in 1970, much of the town's population ebbed away. The bears became the only regular visitors, and those that wandered into town were shot and killed on sight, sometimes as many as 30 a year.

But in the late 1970s, the relationship with the bears began to change. A Canadian biologist and wildlife photographer, Dan Guravich, arrived to produce a feature for the Smithsonian journal. He captured the usually solitary creatures rolling in the snow, play-fighting and roaming the tundra.

When the story was published in February 1978, journalists, photographers and TV crews began showing up. Tourists followed.

Locals describe those early, unregulated days of polar bear photography trips as a northern "wild west". Jacked-up trucks drove across the tundra and coastline, harassing bears in search of the perfect shot. Photographers and their guides used "blubber guns" that fired big pellets of fat to attract bears to specific spots, and baited areas with seal meat.

Guravich suggested using a version of the swamp buggy he had seen traversing the marshes of Louisiana. Len Smith, a local businessman, custom-built a vehicle he named the tundra buggy. In 1979, Smith took a National Geographic film crew and photographer out in his buggy, and the resulting TV show and magazine story sealed the deal on polar bear tourism in Churchill.

Smith built 14 more customised vehicles and a mobile "tundra lodge" for guests. In 2000, he sold the business to Frontiers North Adventures, founded by a family who had collaborated with him in the early days.

Today, the tours are regulated. Vehicles must stay on rough tracks left by the military, and three tour companies are allocated permits to serve wealthy tourists who arrive during the six-week "bear season".

The question of whether the bears would be better left alone prompts much debate. With the ice melting earlier in summer and forming later in winter, many are spending more time on land, which increases the chances of conflict with humans. Some Churchill residents believe the bears have become bolder, perhaps because they are hungrier.



▲ *Tourists on the viewing platform of a Great White Bear Tours bus*

Arrivals at Churchill airport are greeted by a large sign warning them not to feed or approach the polar bears and never to walk at night. Locals routinely leave their cars unlocked to give people an escape from bear encounters.

Those bears that are not scared away from the town's few streets with "cracker shells" (blanks fired by shotgun) are taken to "polar bear jail", where they are held for up to 30 days before being tranquillised and taken by helicopter 90 miles away from the town.

Living with apex predators poses challenges for residents, but it is the spectre of climate change that looms over Churchill. The number of polar bears in western Hudson Bay has fallen by 27% in five years, according to a recent government count from the air.

Polar bears need lots of body fat to sustain themselves on land in summer, losing about 1kg (2.2lb) a day. Female bears and cubs have an especially hard time.

Alysa McCall, a biologist with Polar Bears International, a research and advocacy group in Churchill, says: "Polar bears have become the poster-child of the environmental movement for good reason – the land they inhabit is literally melting beneath their feet."

Push the button
Vending machines are branching out
Page 28



Business

Tories urged not to weaken workplace harassment bill

Kalyeena Makortoff

The government has been urged to protect vulnerable workers amid suggestions that ministers may backtrack on plans to strengthen workplace sexual harassment laws.

The general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Paul Nowak, said it would be "shameful" to drop the worker protection bill due to a backlash by Tory politicians, who claim the new rules will force business owners to run their firms like a "police state". Ministers are reportedly planning to drop the bill without a credible backup to strengthen protection for staff.

"It would be utterly shameful if the government allows this bill to fall," Nowak said yesterday. "Ministers promised to bring in new laws to tackle sexual harassment, but now appear to be backsliding. Let's not forget – women are experiencing sexual harassment and abuse on an industrial scale."

Supporters of the bill have said these kinds of rules would have protected women caught up in scandals including the Presidents Club dinner in 2018, where female hostesses were allegedly told to wear "black, sexy" underwear, and subsequently accused customers of harassment.

The TUC warned that dropping the bill would put vulnerable staff at risk. "Rishi Sunak must not abandon vulnerable staff. These protections are essential," Nowak said. "We know many in public-facing jobs – like shop workers and GP receptionists – suffer abuse and harassment regularly from clients and customers."

Plans to drop the bill, first reported by the Telegraph, come after Tory MPs raised concerns that employers would be at risk of costly lawsuits, given that it contained rules that would make firms liable for harassment or "banter" by third parties such as customers.

Some Tory members said it could lead to bookshops not inviting authors such as JK Rowling to speak at events owing to fears that they could be sued by employees.

TUC research published last year found that two in five people from black or minority ethnic backgrounds faced racism in the workplace over the last five years, ranging from jokes through to bullying and harassment.

> *'It would be utterly shameful if Sunak allows this to fall'*
>
> **Paul Nowak**
> *TUC general secretary*

The Cabinet Office did not directly respond to questions over dropping the bill. A spokesperson said there was no place for harassment of any kind and the bill was aimed at strengthening protection against third-party harassment in the workplace. "We are aware of concerns raised by some parliamentarians about the balance the bill strikes between protecting free speech and tackling harassment. We have made amendments to the bill to address these concerns but will study closely any amendments in parliament."

The concerns come amid revelations of sexual harassment at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), which have rocked the business lobby group. The detailed allegations from more than a dozen people, first reported by the Guardian, include one of rape and another of attempted assault.

The CBI director general, Tony Danker, has also been put on leave – but is still collecting his £376,000 salary – amid allegations made by a female employee that he made unwanted contact with her.

The government has suspended its engagement with the CBI, which has also called off members' events, as it awaits the conclusions of an external investigation expected this week.

Apple's Irish subsidiary made record £56bn profits last year

Kalyeena Makortoff

Apple's main Irish subsidiary paid €7.7bn (£6.8bn) in corporation tax last year, but paid out nearly triple that amount in dividends to its Californian parent company, after reporting more than $69bn (£56bn) in profits.

The latest financial filings for the subsidiary, which is facing legal challenges over its tax arrangements in Ireland, show the Irish unit made the equivalent of nearly $190m a day over the year to September.

The iPhone maker's Cork-based Apple Operations International – which is the umbrella firm for most of Apple's subsidiaries outside the US – said yearly revenues rose by $11.7bn to $223bn alongside the 2% rise in profits.

The company paid €7.7bn in corporation tax for the financial year, while over the period it paid dividends worth $20.7bn to Apple Inc. Its accounts state that the dividends are fully subject to US taxes.

However, it is not clear which governments received those taxes, which amount to 11% of profits. Ireland charges a 12.5% corporation tax rate, that would have resulted in a bill worth $8.7bn.

Including deferred tax charges, Apple Operations International paid a total tax bill worth $11bn for the period.

Apple has faced controversy over its tax arrangements in Ireland, where it has had a presence since 1980 and employs around 56,600 staff.

In 2020, the European Commission ordered the iPhone maker to pay a record-breaking €13bn (£11.5bn) in back taxes to Ireland, saying it had benefited from a sweetheart tax deal that amounted to illegal state aid between 2003-2014. The commission said the deal allowed Apple to pay a maximum tax rate of just 1% – and as low as 0.005% in 2014. The usual rate of corporation tax in Ireland is 12.5%.

Apple challenged the order, which was part of efforts to crack down on tax avoidance across the bloc. A Luxembourg court later ruled that the commission failed to prove that Apple had benefited from the allegedly illegal arrangement, and said Apple did not need to pay back-taxes to the Irish government. The commission is still in the process of appealing the EU court's ruling.

A spokesperson for Apple declined to comment.

Super-rich leave Norway after wealth tax increase

Rupert Neate
Wealth correspondent



Record numbers of super-rich Norwegians are abandoning the Scandinavian country for low-tax nations after the centre-left government increased wealth taxes to 1.1%.

More than 30 billionaires and multi-millionaires left the country in 2022, according to newspaper Dagens Næringsliv – which is more than over the previous 13 years combined. Even more are expected to leave in 2023.

Many have moved to Switzerland, including fisher-turned-industrial tycoon Kjell Inge Røkke, who has relocated to the canton of Lugano.

Røkke, 64, the fourth-richest Norwegian with an estimated fortune of about 19.6bn Norwegian kroner (£1.5bn), said in an open letter that Lugano was "a great place with a central location in Europe".

His relocation will cost Norway about 175m NOK (£13.5m) in lost taxes a year. Last year he was the country's highest individual taxpayer. Dagens Næringsliv calculated he has paid about 1.5bn NOK in tax since 2008.

Norway's super-rich face wealth taxes at both local and state levels. These include a municipal tax of 0.7% on assets in excess of 1.7m NOK for single people or 3.4m NOK for couples, and a state wealth tax rate of 0.3% on assets above 1.7m NOK. In November the state rate rose to 0.4% for assets above 20m NOK for singles, and 40m NOK for couples, taking the maximum wealth tax rate to 1.1%.

Ole Gjems-Onstad, a professor emeritus at the Norwegian Business School, said he estimated those who have left the country had a combined fortune of at least 600bn NOK.

Tord Ueland Kolstad, a retail estate and salmon farming investor with about 1.5bn NOK, has moved to Lucerne. "I, as the founder and responsible owner, have no choice," he told broadcaster TV 2.

Erlend Grimstad, state secretary in the ministry of finance, said "We do encourage Norwegians to succeed in creating value and become rich.

"And we believe the Norwegian model with a strong public welfare system and high education levels are important factors in making that success possible. The model in Norway is that everyone should contribute relevant to ability and therefore those that have a greater ability to pay taxes should pay a little more."



▲ *Norway's wealthy are relocating from places like Oslo, top, to areas such as Lucerne, Switzerland (above)*
MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: DAMIEN VERRIER/GETTY

Vending machines

All you need, from false eyelashes to a good read

Sarah Marsh

Long gone are the days when vending machines would simply swallow your money. Nor are they limited to offering a savoury snack or sweet treat. Instead they have quietly transformed into hi-tech cashless devices selling everything you could possibly need on the move, from false eyelashes to milk, and now books.

The publisher Penguin Random House is showcasing a book vending machine at Exeter St Davids railway station in Devon. The titles available include Taste, by Stanley Tucci, but what is sold will change on a regular basis, sometimes to reflect key moments throughout the year such as Black History Month.

David Llewellyn, chief executive of the Automatic Vending Association, says there has been a rise in machines offering personal protective equipment for workers, as well as a growth in "micro-markets".

"These are small retail units that sit within an office block offering fresh food, snacks and confectionery," he says. "It's like a small unattended retail corner, using things like smart fridges that can read what is taken out of them. You can buy a whole meal."

Llewellyn thinks micro-markets have arisen because of different working patterns, with more people at home. "There are less people consistently on sites now so not huge demand for canteens."

Book vending machines are not entirely new. The first Penguin book vending machine was in Charing Cross Road, London, in 1937, and the books cost sixpence each. In 2019, short-story vending machines arrived in Canary Wharf, dispensing one-, three- and five-minute stories free to passersby.



▲ *The book titles on offer at the machine at Exeter St Davids railway station in Devon will change on a regular basis* PHOTOGRAPH: YUDI WU/PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Llewellyn says the vending market had a £2.2bn annual turnover before the pandemic but lost about 40% when lockdowns forced people out of the offices, transport hubs and leisure spaces where they are most commonly found. Sales are expected to return to pre-Covid levels this year.

In 2018, Neil Stephen, from Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, introduced self-service machines dispensing farmhouse produce. The idea was inspired by his grandfather who, in the late 1970s, used to leave a wheelbarrow filled with turnips and other vegetables at the gates. "We introduced it at the right time, just before Covid, because our business skyrocketed," he says.

Pizza is another product that has emerged as a top seller, with machines serving it popping up from Hampshire to Bristol. Even Italy got in on the act with its own device, close to Piazza Bologna in Rome: Mr Go Pizza offers up four varieties costing between €4.50 (£3.95) and €6.

The public health sphere is also benefiting from vending devices. In Glasgow, in 2021, health officials set up a dispenser of sterilised needles to curb infections among drug users. Elsewhere, in America there are vending machines dispensing free packets of Narcan (naloxone),which can prevent death from a drug overdose.

Japan is home to the most unusual vending operations, offering everything from umbrellas to fancy dress. The most recent addition, in the northern prefecture of Akita, sells fresh bear meat.

The last formal count, conducted by a trade body in December 2020, found there were 2.7m vending machines in Japan - one for every 46 citizens.

Llewellyn says the UK is following Japan down the route of offering more fresh food in vending, although it is unlikely we will ever reach the sheer number of machines in that country.

"There is a huge array of machines [in Japan] but they have a lot of public vending, which would not stand our climate or our social responsibility to other people's equipment. People don't beat machines up in Japan."



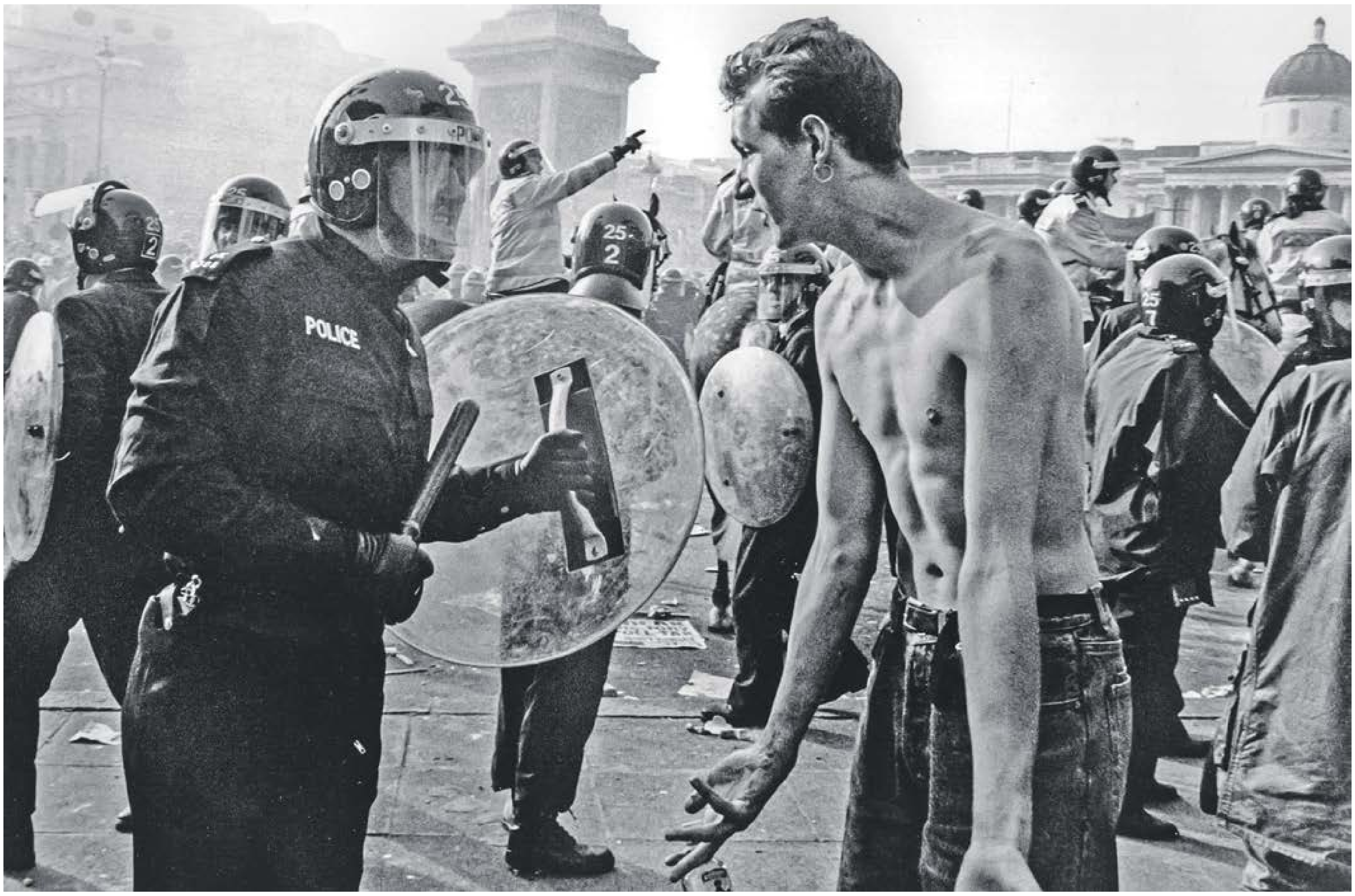
Fresh takes on new trends

Chanté Joseph returns to Pop Culture with more sharp-witted analysis, special guests, and insights into what's trending. The podcast has covered everything from Meghan Markle's racial struggles in the UK to Jameela Jamil's stand against heroin chic. Now, Chanté's back for more unique takes on the latest stories and what they mean for us day-to-day.



Scan the QR code or listen wherever you get your podcasts

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▼ *Police confront demonstrators in Trafalgar Square, central London, during the anti-poll tax riots of 1990*
PHOTOGRAPH: HOWARD DAVIES/CORBIS/GETTY

Vote-winning policy

Time to ditch council tax for fair levy on property values

Larry Elliott
Economics editor

Rishi Sunak needs a gamechanger to have any hope of leading the Conservatives to victory at the next general election, while Sir Keir Starmer could also do with something to seal the deal with the British public.

The conventional wisdom is that there are no easy wins available to either the prime minister or the leader of the opposition in these straitened times. But the conventional wisdom is wrong. There is one policy that would be both popular and make economic sense, and that is reform of the UK's property taxation.

It is now three decades since John Major's government replaced the hated poll tax with the council tax. That the poll tax was a daft idea was obvious to almost everybody apart from Margaret Thatcher. There were riots on the streets and the unpopularity of the tax was reflected in some thumping byelection defeats for the Tories.

In the end, the poll tax did for Thatcher. But abolishing it left Major with the headache of finding a replacement. The answer was council tax, a system based on a series of bands under which people in cheaper homes paid less than those in more expensive properties. The change was always seen as a short-term fix to give the Tories a chance of winning the 1992 election, which they duly succeeded in doing. Nobody thought it would still be around today in its original form.

Yet, largely owing to political cowardice, council tax is still with us. The valuations used to calculate bills date back to 1991 even though average prices have risen almost fivefold over that period, and by a lot more than that in property hotspots. Thirty years of inertia have given the UK a property tax that is not only regressive and intergenerationally unfair but also accentuates the north-south divide.

According to the lobby group Fairer Share, someone living in a modest £150,000 home in Bolton is paying more than £2,700 a year in council tax – £1,000 more than someone occupying an £8m home in London's Westminster. Fairer Share proposes replacing council tax – together with stamp duty and the bedroom tax – with a proportional property tax (PPT) based on values uprated annually.

The tax would be levied at a flat rate of 0.48%, apart from on second homes and empty houses when it would be 0.96%. At that level, the PPT would raise an extra £5bn a year or so for the Treasury, but if the government wanted to make the new system tax-neutral it could do so by lowering the rates to 0.4% and 0.8% respectively.

Opinion polls suggest that a move to a PPT would be popular, not just because council tax bills have just gone up but because 77% of households would gain from the switch to a different system. There would be an average £556 a year tax cut for 19m low and middle-income households, while in the 10% most deprived constituencies in England 99% would gain.

Clearly, if there are winners from a PPT then there will also be losers, and these will tend to be concentrated in parts of London and the south-east, where property prices have rocketed since the early 1990s. To avoid making the switch too burdensome, Fairer Share proposes capping the increase under a PPT to £100 a month. The tipping point at which people would start paying more would be about £500,000 – roughly double the current average house price.

So what's not to like about a PPT? One argument is that it would be technically difficult to update properties annually. But if Denmark and the Netherlands can manage it, then so can the UK. Anybody who wants to know the current value of their home only has to log on to Zoopla or Rightmove.

Another objection is that people who are asset rich but cash poor would not be able to afford an increase in their bills, even with the increase capped at £100 a month. But people who live in expensive homes on relatively low incomes would have a choice. They could either downsize to a smaller home with a lower PPT rating or stay put and defer payment until the property was sold.

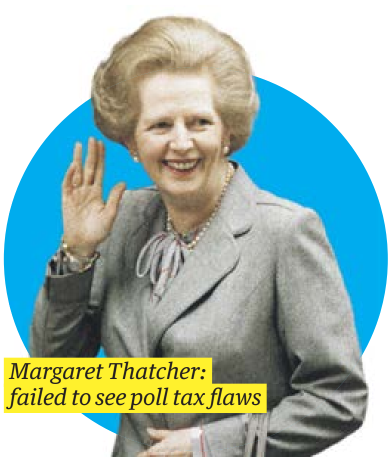
The real objection to a shake-up of property taxation is political. Although there are supporters of a PPT across the political spectrum (John McDonnell, Vince Cable and David Willetts have all endorsed it), governments have ducked reform because they fear a backlash from those who would lose out, fanned by the rightwing media. Labour had 13 years between 1997 and 2010 and did nothing. The Conservatives have left well alone in the 13 years since.

Polling evidence suggests that concerns about a "mansion tax bombshell" are exaggerated. Voters support a PPT by a majority of three to one, with even stronger backing in the Midlands, north England and Scotland. Andrew Dixon, the founder of Fairer Share, says that if either Sunak or Starmer put a PPT in their party's manifesto they would clean up in the "red wall" seats that will help decide who wins the next election.

The arguments against changing Britain's system of property taxation are weak, especially when set against the obvious benefits. It is not only council tax that is the problem, either. Stamp duty might be a reliable source of revenue for the Treasury but it is bad for the economy because it hinders labour mobility.

This weekend marks the traditional start of the annual housebuying season. With local elections only a month away, there would be no better time for the days of council tax and stamp duty to be numbered. Change is long overdue.

The owner of a £150,000 home in Bolton pays £1,000 more council tax than someone in an £8m Westminster house



Margaret Thatcher: failed to see poll tax flaws



◀ *John Major on the 1992 election campaign trail: the council tax was introduced as a short-term fix to give the Tories a chance of winning*
PHOTOGRAPH: PA NEWS

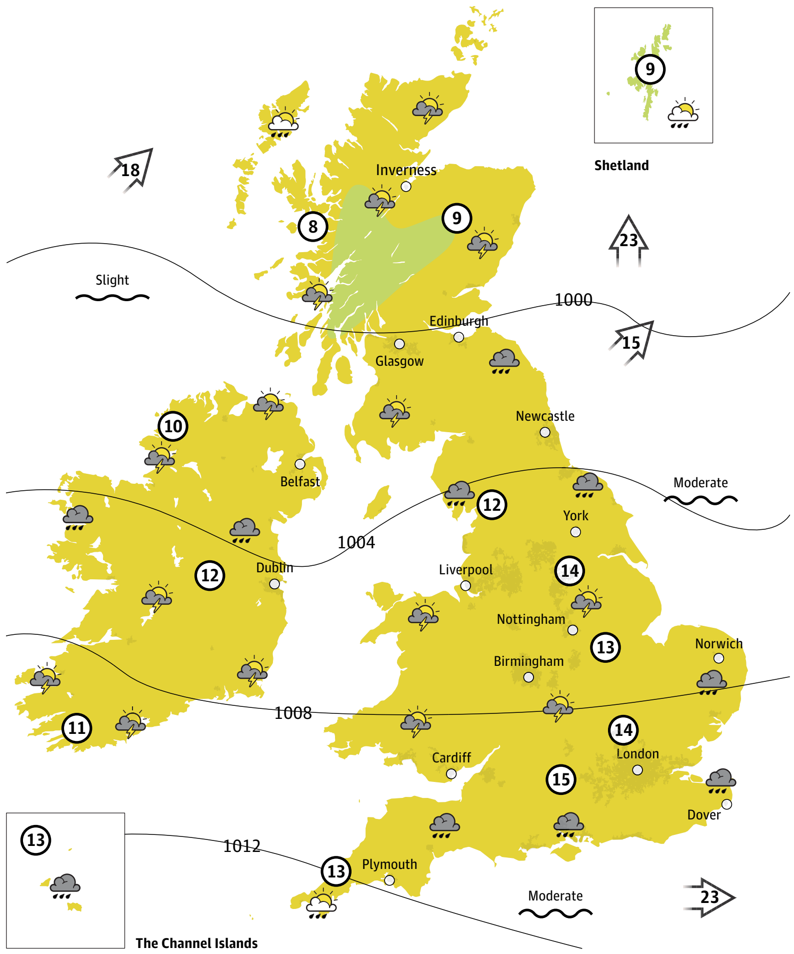
Weather

Monday 10 April 2023

UK and Ireland Noon today

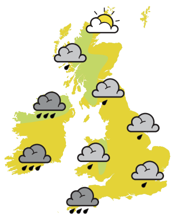
Sunny · Mist · Fog · Sunny intervals · Hazy · Mostly cloudy · Overcast/dull · Sunny showers · Sunny and heavy showers · Light showers · Rain · Sleet · Light snow · Snow showers · Heavy snow · Ice · Thundery rain · Thundery showers · (X) Temperature, ºC · Wind speed, mph · Windy

35C · 30 · 25 · 20 · 15 · 10 · 5 · 0 · -5 · -10 · -15 · -20

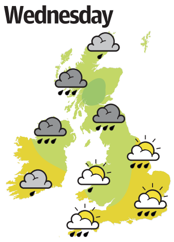


Forecast

Low 5 High 10
Tomorrow



Low 4 High 9
Wednesday



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO_2 readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

Latest	
08 Apr 2023	422.04
Weekly average	
02 Apr 2023	422.60
09 Apr 2022	420.29
09 Apr 2013	398.19
Pre-industrial base	*280*
Safe level	*350*

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

	Lows and highs		Precipitation	Air pollution
London	5	14	90%	Low
Manchester	5	13	95%	Low
Edinburgh	5	12	85%	Low
Belfast	2	11	90%	Low
Birmingham	4	14	90%	Low
Brighton	7	13	90%	Low
Bristol	7	12	60%	Low
Cardiff	6	12	85%	Low
Newcastle	4	13	90%	Low
Penzance	9	13	85%	Low

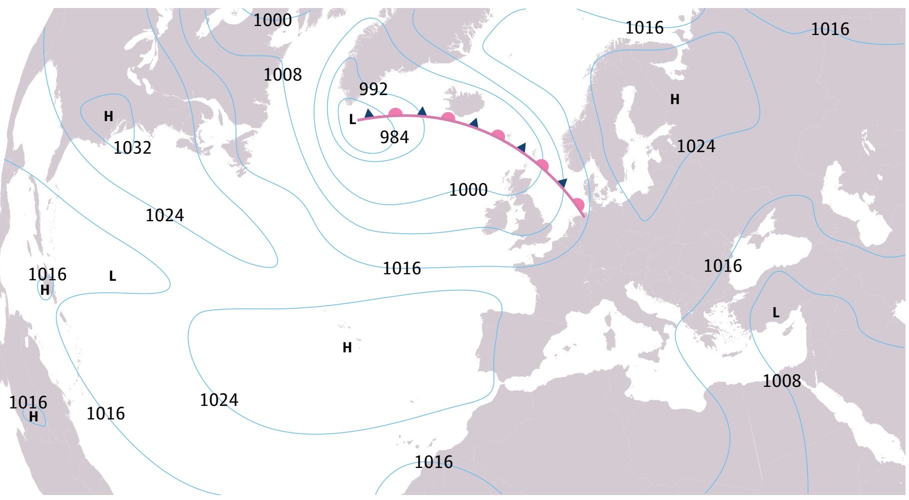
Atlantic front

Cold front

Warm front

Occluded front

Trough



High tides

Source: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Times are local UK times

Aberdeen	**0435**	4.0m	**1656**	4.0m
Avonmouth	**1037**	12.4m	**2253**	12.2m
Barrow	**0233**	8.9m	**1453**	8.9m
Belfast	**0205**	3.3m	**1437**	3.4m
Cobh	**0845**	3.8m	**2104**	3.9m
Cromer	**0948**	4.7m	**2201**	4.7m
Dover	**0159**	6.7m	**1416**	6.5m
Dublin	**0240**	3.8m	**1512**	3.8m
Galway	**0832**	4.7m	**2052**	4.7m
Greenock	**0343**	3.3m	**1600**	3.5m
Harwich	**0250**	3.9m	**1515**	3.8m
Holyhead	**0125**	5.4m	**1344**	5.3m
Hull	**0940**	7.0m	**2200**	7.0m
Leith	**0558**	5.2m	**1818**	5.2m
Liverpool	**0212**	8.9m	**1428**	8.8m
London Bridge	**0507**	7.0m	**1725**	6.6m
Lossiemouth	**0302**	3.8m	**1521**	3.8m
Milford Haven	**0933**	6.6m	**2151**	6.5m
Newquay	**0825**	6.6m	**2044**	6.4m
North Shields	**0641**	4.7m	**1859**	4.8m
Oban	**0849**	3.7m	**2111**	3.6m
Penzance	**0755**	5.2m	**2015**	5.2m
Plymouth	**0912**	5.1m	**2123**	5.1m
Portsmouth	**0233**	4.5m	**1454**	4.5m
Southport	**0139**	8.6m	**1355**	8.5m
Stornoway	**1000**	4.4m	**2227**	4.3m
Weymouth	**0922**	1.2m	**2139**	1.2m
Whitby	**0719**	5.2m	**1937**	5.2m
Wick	**0230**	3.2m	**1450**	3.2m
Workington	**0235**	8.0m	**1454**	7.9m

Sun & Moon



Sun rises	0616
Sun sets	1948
Moon rises	0020
Moon sets	0754
Last Quarter	13 April

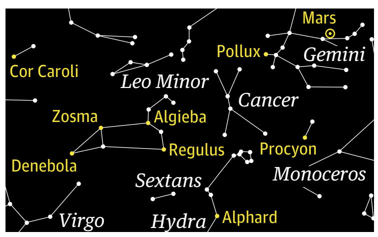
AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather** ©2023

Lighting up

Belfast	2018 to 0633
Birm'ham	1956 to 0619
Brighton	1947 to 0615
Bristol	1958 to 0625
Carlisle	2005 to 0619
Cork	2022 to 0647
Dublin	2016 to 0636
Glasgow	2013 to 0623
Harlech	2006 to 0628
Inverness	2015 to 0618
London	1948 to 0614
M'chester	2000 to 0620
Newcastle	2001 to 0614
Norwich	1945 to 0607
Penzance	2008 to 0638

Starwatch



Spring is the perfect time to see the constellation of Leo, the lion. Being a zodiacal constellation, it sits in the plane of the ecliptic, which marks the path followed by the sun throughout the year.

It is highly recognisable because of its size and the number of bright stars it contains. The lion's head is marked by the star Algenubi, and together with the stars representing the mane and chest, forms an asterism known as "the sickle". The lion's body is marked by four stars, Regulus, Algieba, Zosma, Denebola.

The grouping was recognised by the Mesopotamians as early as 4000BCE, and quickly associated with a great lion. In the second century, Ptolemy included it in his list of 48 constellations, from which the modern groupings are derived. The chart shows the southern sky from London. In the southern hemisphere Leo appears upside down in the northern sky.

Stuart Clark *@DrStuClark*

Around the world

Algiers	23	Lisbon	21
Ams'dam	14	Madrid	27
Athens	16	Malaga	26
Auckland	23	Melb'rne	15
B Aires	23	Mexico C	25
Bangkok	36	Miami	26
Barcelona	18	Milan	18
Basra	38	Mombasa	33
Beijing	28	Moscow	13
Berlin	17	Mumbai	35
Bermuda	20	N Orleans	22
Brussels	15	Nairobi	27
Budapest	16	New Delhi	35
C'hagen	10	New York	17
Cairo	28	Oslo	8
Cape Town	18	Paris	16
Chicago	20	Perth	23
Corfu	16	Prague	14
Dakar	25	Reykjavik	7
Dhaka	36	Rio de J	26
Dublin	12	Rome	18
Florence	19	Shanghai	27
Gibraltar	27	Singapore	31
H Kong	25	Stockh'm	8
Harare	28	Strasb'g	18
Helsinki	10	Sydney	19
Istanbul	10	Tel Aviv	27
Jo'burg	18	Tenerife	25
K Lumpur	33	Tokyo	20
K'mandu	29	Toronto	18
Kabul	21	Vancouv'r	10
Kingston	30	Vienna	14
Kolkata	39	Warsaw	16
L Angeles	25	Wash'ton	18
Lagos	31	Well'ton	20
Lima	28	Zurich	17

Football
Brighton receive apology for missed penalty
Page 38 →

Dayot Upamecano
'My mother was alone and I felt I had to protect her'
Big interview, page 37 →



Sport



▲ *Jannik Sinner (left), Carlos Alcaraz and Holger Rune (right) are changing the game*
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LARRY MARANO/SHUTTERSTOCK; CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY; JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY

New world order

Tennis skips a generation as Alcaraz leads charge of next big three



Hannah Jane Parkinson

Last week, shortly after Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner played the point of the year so far - exchanges of 80mph cross-court forehands; Sinner hooking the ball back from behind him; Alcaraz falling and recovering; the kind of exquisite drop shots and physics-defying sliding we've come to expect from both; and, finally, a triumphant Sinner whipping up the crowd after a fruitless dive from Alcaraz left the Spaniard sprawled and breathless on Miami's Hard Rock court - their colleagues took to social media in adoration and disbelief.

"Guys, are you from this planet?" and "What in the alien", posted Aryna Sabalenka and Bianca Andreescu of the other-worldly efforts while John Isner wrote: "Tennis is in good hands."

Sinner, who is 21, and Alcaraz, 19, are, along with Denmark's Holger Rune, also 19, electrifying the ATP Tour in a way unseen since three certain other players. That Alcaraz is Spanish makes comparison with Rafael Nadal an easy one, and something that Juan Carlos Ferrero, Alcaraz's coach, has described as unhelpful. But the youngster and the 14-times French Open winner do have history: they first met when Alcaraz was 13 and won a title on Nadal's Junior Tour and they share a mental resilience.

Sinner, an Italian born close to the Austrian border, is calm personified; his maturity has earned comparisons to Roger Federer's on-court demeanour. At the Australian Open Sinner hit a down-the-line forehand winner so similar to a famous Federer point that there is a side-by-side comparison on YouTube; although his style of play, including an incredible ability to turn defence into attack, is perhaps more Novak Djokovic in nature. Sinner, like Djokovic, is an accomplished skier with impeccable balance. Rune, meanwhile, is in the Djokovic mould as somewhat of a Marmite-figure in temperament and occasional displays of arrogance. But the truth is that all three bring their own composite toolkits and flair to the court.

You might say the top of men's tennis has skipped a generation. The cohort of players now in their mid-20s that was supposed to signal the changing of the guard has not delivered as expected. Though Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas have come closest to fulfilling their potential, Andrey Rublev, Casper Ruud and Matteo Berrettini less so. The group has nowhere near troubled the supremacy of Nadal, Federer and Djokovic.

The Big Three have commanding head-to-head leads over all the players who were supposed to usher them into retirement (with the exception of Federer against Zverev and Rublev, who have edged him by one match each). The only one of the ostensible successors to have won a grand slam title is Medvedev, who beat Djokovic in the 2021 US Open final (but still trails him five to nine in head-to-heads). Three of the above six are yet to win a Masters well into their careers.

Compare this with the early displays from Sinner, Alcaraz and Rune. Last year Rune became the youngest winner (19) of the Paris Masters since Boris Becker, downing Djokovic in the final. Alcaraz, the youngest year-end No 1, beat Nadal and Djokovic in successive days at the Madrid Open (which he went on to win); he has three Masters titles and a grand slam title. Sinner took the first two sets off Djokovic in an electrifying match at Wimbledon and has appeared in two Masters finals. He has saved more break points at his age than any of the Big Three had. All occupy spots in the top 10 and have edged ahead of players such as Felix Auger-Aliassime and Taylor Fritz in promise.

Fans are excited about the three prodigies not only because of their early success but for the nature of it. Sinner and Alcaraz's meetings have the thrill of rollercoasters. Alcaraz has said he "feels something different from the crowd" when the two play. Their epic five-hour US Open quarter-final was the best match of 2022. They have played six times on the main tour, their head-to-head evenly split. Rune, too, is a big personality and a livewire to watch, whether it is tantrums on the court or beef with Stan Wawrinka and Casper Ruud. He is bringing a Kyrgiosesque, McEnroe-type chaotic energy that some claim is missing from the sport amid dwindling popularity. Their variety, too, is welcome; bringing drop shots and net play back after years of relentless baseline power-hitting.

> *Rune is a big personality and a livewire to watch, whether it is tantrums on court or beef with Stan Wawrinka*

Of course, in sport nothing is ever certain. Alcaraz's frequent injuries are becoming a concern. Sinner has room to improve further his wonky ball-toss which can upset his serve. Rune, who has separated from Patrick Mouratoglou, must learn to keep his pugilism in check (in fairness he has already settled somewhat, thankfully not to the detriment of the spectacle). Many players who excel in their teens fade away; consistency and dedication are key. The Big Three, however, have all declared this new trio the real thing - as has virtually everyone else. With Federer having untied his bandana for the final time and Nadal expected to followsoon owing to a deteriorating foot condition, just Djokovic and a wonderfully resurgent Andy Murray of the modern giants will be around to stem the tide of the youngsters. Isner is right: tennis is in very good hands.

The week ahead



Magdalena Eriksson will lead Chelsea against Aston Villa on Sunday

Today

Football (3pm unless stated)
Sky Bet Championship
Birmingham v Stoke; Bristol City v Middlesbrough (5.30pm) *SSME/SSF*; Burnley v Sheffield Utd (8pm) *SSME/SSF*; Cardiff v Sunderland; Coventry v Watford *SSME/SSF*; Huddersfield v Blackburn (12.30pm) *SSME/SSF*; Hull v Millwall; Luton v Blackpool; Norwich v Rotherham; Preston v Reading; West Brom v QPR; Wigan v Swansea
Sky Bet League One
Barnsley v Shrewsbury; Bolton v Cambridge Utd; Charlton v Burton Albion; Cheltenham v Ipswich; Derby v MK Dons; Fleetwood v Bristol Rovers; Peterborough Utd v Exeter; Plymouth v Lincoln City; Port Vale v Oxford Utd; Portsmouth v Morecambe; Sheffield Wed v Accrington Stanley; Wycombe v Forest Green
Sky Bet League Two
AFC Wimbledon v Salford City; Barrow v Crawley; Bradford City v Sutton Utd; Colchester v Crewe; Doncaster v Grimsby; Hartlepool v Stevenage; Leyton Orient v Harrogate; Mansfield v Rochdale; Northampton v Gillingham; Stockport v Newport County; Tranmere v Swindon; Walsall v Carlisle
Vanarama National League
Altrincham v Gateshead; Bromley v Boreham Wood; Dag & Red v Chesterfield; Eastleigh v Aldershot; Maidenhead v Torquay; Maidstone v Barnet; Scunthorpe v Oldham; Wealdstone v Solihull Moors; Woking v Southend; Wrexham v Notts County *BTS1*; Yeovil v Dorking; York v Halifax

Rugby league
Betfred Championship
Halifax v Bradford (7.45pm) *VS1*

Racing
Chepstow, Fakenham, Huntingdon, Plumpton, Redcar, Wolverhampton

Rugby league
Betfred Super League
Salford v Castleford (8pm) *SSAr*

Cricket (11am unless stated)
LV= Insurance County Championship (first day of four)
Division One Essex v Lancashire, Chelmsford; Northamptonshire v Middlesex, Northampton; Nottinghamshire v Somerset, Trent Bridge; Surrey v Hampshire, The Oval; Warwickshire v Kent, Edgbaston
Division Two Durham v Worcestershire, Riverside; Gloucestershire v Yorkshire, Bristol; Leicestershire v Derbyshire, Grace Road

Golf
RBC Heritage
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina (to Sun) *SSG/SSME*

Darts
PDC Premier League
Brighton *SSAc/SSME*

Racing
Aintree, Chelmsford, Newcastle, Taunton

Tomorrow

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Women's international friendlies
England v Australia *ITV4/ITVX*; Portugal v Wales (5.30pm) *BBCi*; Scotland v Costa Rica (7.35pm) *BBCi*; USA v Republic of Ireland (12.30am)
Uefa Champions League
Quarter-finals Benfica v Inter (8pm) *BTS2*; Manchester City v Bayern Munich (8pm) *BTS1*
Cinch Scottish Championship
Dundee v Raith; Inverness CT v Arbroath; Morton v Hamilton
Cinch Scottish League One
Montrose v Falkirk; Peterhead v Dunfermline
Cinch Scottish League Two
Dumbarton v Stirling Albion; Elgin v Stenhousemuir

Racing
Exeter, Pontefract, Wolverhampton

Wednesday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Uefa Champions League
Quarter-finals
Milan v Napoli (8pm) *BTS2*; Real Madrid v Chelsea (8pm) *BTS1*
Vanarama National League
Eastleigh v Gateshead

Golf
Women's Lotte Championship
Ewa Beach, Hawaii (to Sat)

Racing
Catterick, Kempton, Nottingham, Southwell

Thursday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Uefa Europa League
Quarter-finals: First leg
Bayer Leverkusen v Union St Gilloise (8pm) *BTS5*; Feyenoord v Roma (5.45pm) *BTS3*; Juventus v Sporting (8pm) *BTS3*; Manchester Utd v Sevilla (8pm) *BTS1*
Uefa Europa Conference League
Quarter-finals: First leg Anderlecht v AZ Alkmaar (8pm) *BTS2*; Basel v Nice (8pm) *BTS7*; Gent v West Ham (5.45pm) *BTS2*; Lech Poznan v Fiorentina (8pm) *BTS4*

Friday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Sky Bet Championship
Middlesbrough v Norwich (8pm) *SSME*
Cinch Scottish Premiership
Ross County v Aberdeen *SSF*
Cinch Scottish Championship
Queen's Park v Hamilton

Rugby union (7.45pm unless stated)
Gallagher Premiership
Bristol v Sale *BTS1*; Gloucester v Bath
United Championship
Glasgow v Scarlets (7.35pm) *VS1*; Sharks v Benetton (5.30pm) *VS1*; Ulster v Dragons (7.35pm) *VS2*
RFU Championship
Hartpury v London Scottish; Nottingham v Ampthill

Rugby league
Betfred Super League
Huddersfield v Catalans Dragons (7.45pm); Hull KR v St Helens (8pm); Leeds v Hull FC (8pm); Warrington v Wigan (8pm) *SSAr*

Cricket
First Twenty20 International
Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore (5pm) *SSC*

Tennis
Billie Jean King Cup qualifiers
(to Sat)

Racing
Aintree, Leicester, Sedgefield, Southwell

Saturday

Football (3pm unless stated)
Premier League
Aston Villa v Newcastle (12.30pm) *BTS1*; Chelsea v Brighton; Everton v Fulham; Manchester City v Leicester (5.30pm) *SSME/SSPL*; Southampton v Crystal Palace; Tottenham v Bournemouth; Wolves v Brentford
Sky Bet Championship
Blackburn v Hull (7.45pm) *SSME/SSF*; Blackpool v Wigan; Millwall v Preston; QPR v Coventry; Reading v Burnley; Rotherham v Luton; Sheffield Utd v Cardiff (12.30pm) *SSME/SSF*; Stoke v West Brom; Sunderland v Birmingham; Swansea v Huddersfield; Watford v Bristol City
Sky Bet League One
Accrington Stanley v Fleetwood Town; Bristol Rovers v Derby; Burton Albion v Sheffield Wed; Cambridge Utd v Peterborough Utd (12.30pm); Exeter v Plymouth (midday); Forest Green v Barnsley; Ipswich v Charlton; Lincoln City v Port Vale; MK Dons v Cheltenham; Morecambe v Wycombe; Oxford Utd v Bolton; Shrewsbury v Portsmouth
Sky Bet League Two
Carlisle v Northampton; Crawley v Tranmere; Crewe v Walsall; Gillingham v Stockport County; Grimsby v Mansfield; Harrogate v Doncaster; Newport County v Hartlepool; Rochdale v Bradford City; Salford City v Colchester; Stevenage v AFC Wimbledon; Sutton Utd v Leyton Orient; Swindon v Barrow
Vanarama National League
Aldershot v Scunthorpe; Barnet v Wrexham *BTS2*; Boreham Wood v Wealdstone; Chesterfield v Eastleigh; Dorking Wanderers v Altrincham; Gateshead v Bromley; Halifax v Maidstone; Notts County v Woking; Oldham v Maidenhead; Solihull Moors v Yeovil; Southend v Dag & Red; Torquay v York
Vitality Women's FA Cup
Semi-final Manchester Utd v Brighton (5.15pm) *BBC2/BBCi*
Cinch Scottish Premiership
Hibernian v Hearts (12.30pm); Livingston v St Johnstone; Motherwell v Dundee Utd; Rangers v St Mirren
Cinch Scottish Championship
Cove Rangers v Inverness CT; Dundee v Morton; Partick v Ayr; Raith v Arbroath
Cinch Scottish League One
Clyde v Edinburgh; Dunfermline v Queen of the South; Falkirk v Airdrieonians; Kelty Hearts v Alloa; Montrose v Peterhead
Cinch Scottish League Two
Annan Athletic v Albion Rovers; Bonnyrigg Rose v Dumbarton; East Fife v Stranraer; Elgin v Forfar; Stenhousemuir v Stirling Albion

Rugby union (3pm unless stated)
Women's Six Nations
Italy v Ireland (4.45pm); Wales v England (2.15pm)
Gallagher Premiership
Harlequins v Newcastle; Northampton v Saracens *BTS3*
United Championship
Bulls v Zebre (midday) *VS2*; Connacht v Cardiff (7.35pm); Edinburgh v Ospreys (7.35pm) *VS2*; Lions v Leinster *VS2*; Stormers v Munster (5.15pm) *VS2*
RFU Championship
Doncaster v Cornish Pirates (2.30pm); Bedford v Jersey; Ealing v Caldy; Richmond v Coventry

Rugby league
Betfred Championship
Keighley v Toulouse (3pm)

Cricket
Second T20 international
Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore (5pm)

Snooker
Cazoo World Championship
Crucible, Sheffield (to 1 May) *BBC/ES1*

Racing
Aintree, Chepstow, Great Yarmouth, Newcastle, Wolverhampton

Sunday

Football (3pm unless stated)
Premier League
Nottingham Forest v Manchester Utd (4.30pm) *SSME/SSPL*; West Ham v Arsenal (2pm) *SSME/SSPL*
Cinch Scottish Premiership
Kilmarnock v Celtic (midday) *SSME/SSF*
Vitality Women's FA Cup
Semi-final Aston Villa v Chelsea (2.15pm) *BBC1/BBCi*
FA Women's Championship
Charlton v Durham (midday); Coventry Utd v Sheffield Utd (2pm); Crystal Palace v Birmingham (2pm); Lewes v Blackburn (midday); Southampton v London City (2pm); Sunderland v Bristol City (12.30pm)

Rugby union (3pm unless stated)
Women's Six Nations
France v Scotland (3.15pm)
Gallagher Premiership
Leicester v Exeter *BTS1*

Rugby league (3pm unless stated)
Betfred Super League
Wakefield v Leigh
Betfred Championship
Bradford v Batley; Halifax v York; London Broncos v Featherstone; Whitehaven v Newcastle; Widnes v Barrow
Betfred Women's Super League
Group One Huddersfield v Leeds (2pm); Warrington v Wigan (2pm); York v St Helens (1pm)
Group Two Bradford v Leigh (5.15pm); Castleford v Salford (2pm); Featherstone v Barrow (midday)

Cricket
First Test (first day of five)
Sri Lanka v Ireland, Galle (5.30am)

Cycling
Men's Amstel Gold Race
Limburg, Netherlands *ES1*
Women's Amstel Gold Race
Limburg, Netherlands

Racing
Huntingdon, Wincanton

Football results

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES
Argentina L Venezuela L; USA 2 Republic of Ireland 0.
Friday Australia 0 Scotland 1; Austria 3 Belgium 2; France 5 Colombia 2; Netherlands 0 Germany 1; New Zealand 1 Iceland 1; Portugal 1 Japan 2; Slovakia 0 Finland 1; South Korea 5 Zambia 2; Sweden 0 Denmark 1

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	30	23	4	3	72	29	+43	**73**
Manchester City	29	21	4	4	75	27	+48	**67**
Newcastle	29	15	11	3	48	21	+27	**56**
Manchester Utd	29	17	5	7	44	37	+7	**56**
Tottenham	30	16	5	9	55	42	+13	**53**
Aston Villa	30	14	5	11	41	40	+1	**47**
Brighton	28	13	7	8	52	36	+16	**46**
Liverpool	29	12	8	9	50	35	+15	**44**
Brentford	30	10	13	7	47	40	+7	**43**
Fulham	29	11	6	12	39	40	-1	**39**
Chelsea	30	10	9	11	29	31	-2	**39**
Crystal Palace	30	8	9	13	29	40	-11	**33**
Wolves	30	8	7	15	24	42	-18	**31**
West Ham	29	8	6	15	27	39	-12	**30**
Bournemouth	30	8	6	16	28	57	-29	**30**
Leeds	30	7	8	15	39	54	-15	**29**
Everton	30	6	9	15	23	43	-20	**27**
Nottingham Forest	30	6	9	15	24	54	-30	**27**
Leicester	30	7	4	19	40	52	-12	**25**
Southampton	30	6	5	19	24	51	-27	**23**

Aston Villa (0) **2** Traoré 48, Watkins 90 — **Nottingham Forest** (0) **0** 42,076

Brentford (1) **1** Toney 45pen 17,107 — **Newcastle** (0) **2** Raya 54og Isak 61

Fulham (0) **0** 24,491 — **West Ham** (1) **1** Reed 23og

Leeds (1) **1** Bamford 21 — **Crystal Palace** (1) **5** Guéhi 45, Ayew 53 77 Eze 55, Édouard 69

Leicester (0) **0** 32,094 — **Bournemouth** (1) **1** Billing 40

Liverpool (1) **2** Salah 42 Firmino 87 — **Arsenal** (2) **2** Martinelli 8 Jesus 28

Manchester Utd (1) **2** McTominay 36 Martial 71 — **Everton** (0) **0** 73,509

Southampton (0) **1** Mara 72 30,963 — **Manchester City** (1) **4** Haaland 45 68 Grealish 58, Álvarez 75pen

Tottenham (1) **2** Son 10 Kane 79 — **Brighton** (1) **1** Dunk 34 61,405

Wolves (1) **1** Nunes 31 — **Chelsea** (0) **0** 31,614

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Burnley (P)	39	25	12	2	76	30	+46	**87**
Sheffield Utd	39	23	7	9	60	33	+27	**76**
Luton	40	18	14	8	48	35	+13	**68**
Middlesbrough	40	20	7	13	72	48	+24	**67**
Millwall	40	17	11	12	48	40	+8	**62**
Blackburn	39	19	4	16	43	45	-2	**61**
Norwich	40	17	9	14	54	42	+12	**60**
Preston	40	16	11	13	39	44	-5	**59**
Coventry	40	15	13	12	47	41	+6	**58**
West Brom	39	15	11	13	48	42	+6	**56**
Sunderland	40	14	13	13	57	50	+7	**55**
Watford	40	14	13	13	47	45	+2	**55**
Bristol City	40	13	13	14	48	48	0	**52**
Stoke	40	14	9	17	53	47	+6	**51**
Swansea	40	13	11	16	54	59	-5	**50**
Birmingham	40	13	10	17	44	51	-7	**49**
Hull	40	12	13	15	47	57	-10	**49**
Rotherham	39	10	14	15	44	52	-8	**44**
Cardiff	39	11	9	19	33	45	-12	**42**
Huddersfield	40	11	9	20	39	57	-18	**42**
QPR	40	11	9	20	38	62	-24	**42**
Reading	40	13	8	19	42	60	-18	**41**
Blackpool	40	8	11	21	42	64	-22	**35**
Wigan	40	8	13	19	34	60	-26	**34**

Friday Blackburn 0 Norwich 2; Blackpool 1 Cardiff 3; Middlesbrough 1 Burnley 2; Millwall 0 Luton 0; QPR 0 Preston 2; Reading 1 Birmingham 1; Rotherham 3 West Brom 1; Sheffield Utd 1 Wigan 0; Stoke 1 Bristol City 2; Sunderland 4 Hull 4; Swansea 0 Coventry 0; Watford 2 Huddersfield 3

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Plymouth	39	25	8	6	70	42	+28	**83**
Ipswich	39	23	12	4	78	31	+47	**81**
Sheffield Wed	40	23	12	5	68	32	+36	**81**
Barnsley	39	23	6	10	67	36	+31	**75**
Bolton	39	19	10	10	53	31	+22	**67**
Peterborough Utd	40	21	4	15	68	47	+21	**67**
Derby	40	19	10	11	61	41	+20	**67**
Wycombe	40	18	8	14	53	42	+11	**62**
Portsmouth	40	16	14	10	55	45	+10	**62**
Shrewsbury	39	16	7	16	47	50	-3	**55**
Exeter	40	14	11	15	58	52	+6	**53**
Charlton	40	13	13	14	59	51	+8	**52**
Fleetwood	40	12	14	14	44	43	+1	**50**
Lincoln City	39	10	19	10	37	41	-4	**49**
Bristol Rovers	38	13	9	16	51	60	-9	**48**
Cheltenham	40	12	9	19	34	51	-17	**45**
Port Vale	40	12	9	19	40	60	-20	**45**
Burton Albion	38	12	9	17	49	71	-22	**45**
MK Dons	40	11	8	21	37	57	-20	**41**
Oxford Utd	39	9	12	18	40	50	-10	**39**
Accrington Stanley	39	9	11	19	33	63	-30	**38**
Cambridge Utd	39	10	6	23	32	60	-28	**36**
Morecambe	41	7	13	21	38	71	-33	**34**
Forest Green	40	6	8	26	29	74	-45	**26**

Friday Accrington Stanley 3 Port Vale 0; Bristol Rovers 1 Charlton 0; Burton Albion 2 Barnsley 1; Cambridge Utd 2 Fleetwood 1; Exeter 0 Bolton 1; Forest Green 0 Derby 2; Ipswich 4 Wycombe 0; Lincoln City 2 Cheltenham 0; MK Dons 1 Portsmouth 1; Morecombe 1 Plymouth 3; Oxford Utd 1 Sheffield Wed 1; Shrewsbury 0 Peterborough Utd 3

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Leyton Orient	39	23	11	5	52	25	+27	**80**
Northampton	40	19	13	8	53	37	+16	**70**
Carlisle	40	19	12	9	60	37	+23	**69**
Stevenage	39	19	12	8	53	36	+17	**69**
Stockport County	40	19	10	11	53	33	+20	**67**
Bradford City	39	17	14	8	48	34	+14	**65**
Mansfield	39	18	10	11	63	48	+15	**64**
Salford City	40	18	9	13	61	46	+15	**63**
Barrow	40	17	7	16	42	47	-5	**58**
Sutton Utd	40	15	12	13	41	42	-1	**57**
Swindon	39	13	12	14	52	49	+3	**51**
Doncaster	40	15	6	19	40	55	-15	**51**
Walsall	40	11	17	12	42	40	+2	**50**
Tranmere	40	13	11	16	38	42	-4	**50**
Grimsby	39	12	12	15	42	50	-8	**48**
Crewe	39	11	15	13	39	47	-8	**48**
Newport County	39	11	14	14	41	43	-2	**47**
AFC Wimbledon	41	11	14	16	43	48	-5	**47**
Gillingham	40	12	11	17	28	42	-14	**47**
Harrogate	39	9	13	17	45	57	-12	**40**
Colchester	40	9	12	19	35	47	-12	**39**
Crawley	40	9	11	20	43	64	-21	**38**
Hartlepool	40	8	14	18	47	69	-22	**38**
Rochdale	40	8	8	24	38	61	-23	**32**

Friday Carlisle 2 Tranmere 0; Crawley 0 Bradford City 0; Crewe 3 Barrow 0; Gillingham 1 Doncaster 0; Grimsby 1 Hartlepool 4; Harrogate 2 AFC Wimbledon 2; Newport County 3 Northampton 0; Rochdale 4 Walsall 2; Salford City 0 Leyton Orient 2; Stevenage 1 Colchester 1; Sutton Utd 0 Stockport County 1; Swindon 2 Mansfield 4

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Notts County	42	30	10	2	106	36	+70	**100**
Wrexham	41	31	7	3	106	39	+67	**100**
Woking	41	22	9	10	67	42	+25	**75**
Chesterfield	41	21	9	11	68	47	+21	**72**
Barnet	41	20	8	13	73	64	+9	**68**
Boreham Wood	41	17	14	10	48	34	+14	**65**
Eastleigh	41	19	7	15	48	45	+3	**64**
Bromley	41	16	14	11	60	50	+10	**62**
Southend	41	17	8	16	49	40	+9	**59**
Dag & Red	41	17	7	17	57	67	-10	**58**
Solihull Moors	41	15	11	15	60	59	+1	**56**
Wealdstone	41	15	11	15	51	66	-15	**56**
Altrincham	41	14	11	16	61	73	-12	**53**
York	42	13	10	19	50	54	-4	**49**
Halifax	40	13	10	17	40	46	-6	**49**
Maidenhead	42	13	10	19	45	57	-12	**49**
Oldham	41	12	12	17	54	63	-9	**48**
Gateshead	39	11	14	14	54	55	-1	**46**
Dorking	41	13	7	21	59	86	-27	**46**
Aldershot	41	12	8	21	55	69	-14	**44**
Torquay	41	10	10	21	48	69	-21	**40**
Yeovil	41	7	18	16	33	50	-17	**39**
Scunthorpe	42	8	10	24	46	78	-32	**34**
Maidstone (R)	42	5	9	28	43	92	-49	**24**

Friday Aldershot 1 Yeovil 1; Barnet 1 Bromley 1; Boreham Wood 0 Dag & Red 1; Chesterfield 1 York 3; Dorking 1 Woking 2; Gateshead 2 Scunthorpe 0; Halifax 3 Wrexham 1; Notts County 3 Wealdstone 0; Oldham 2 Altrincham 2; Solihull Moors 1 Maidenhead 1; Southend 2 Maidstone 0; Torquay 2 Eastleigh 0

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH
Friday Blyth Spartans 0 Darlington 0; Boston Utd 4 Farsley Celtic 0; Brackley 1 Telford 2; Bradford PA 2 Southport 0; Chester 0 Chorley 0; Gloucester 1 Banbury 1; Kidderminster 1 Buxton 0; King's Lynn 4 Kettering 1; Leamington 2 Hereford 0; Peterborough Sports 1 Alfeton 2; Scarborough 0 Curzon Ashton 1; Spennymoor 2 Fylde 1

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Friday Bath City 0 Taunton 2; Chelmsford 3 Farnborough 2; Dover 0 Welling 0; Dulwich Hamlet 1 Cheshunt 0; Eastbourne Borough 2 Dartford 1; Ebbsfleet Utd 3 Oxford City 0; Hampton & Richmond 2 Hungerford 0; Havant & Waterlooville 2 Weymouth 2; Slough 6 Chippenham 1; St Albans 0 Braintree 2; Tonbridge 1 Hemel Hempstead 1; Worthing 7 Concord Rangers 0

CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	31	29	1	1	98	23	+75	**88**
Rangers	31	24	4	3	76	30	+46	**76**
Aberdeen	31	15	2	14	49	52	-3	**47**
Hearts	31	13	6	12	50	47	+3	**45**
St Mirren	31	12	8	11	36	42	-6	**44**
Hibernian	31	12	4	15	47	51	-4	**40**
Livingston	31	11	6	14	31	50	-19	**39**
Motherwell	31	10	6	15	42	45	-3	**36**
St Johnstone	31	9	5	17	33	51	-18	**32**
Kilmarnock	31	7	7	17	26	54	-28	**28**
Ross County	31	7	6	18	27	45	-18	**27**
Dundee Utd	31	6	7	18	32	57	-25	**25**

Aberdeen (1) **2** Lopes 1 59 — **Kilmarnock** (0) **0** 16,248

Celtic (1) **3** Furuhashi 26 62 Jota 73 — **Rangers** (1) **2** Tavernier 45 78

Dundee Utd (1) **2** Fletcher 8 McGrath 90pen — **Hibernian** (0) **1** Kukharevych 70 9,516

Hearts (0) **0** 18,660 — **St Mirren** (0) **2** Main 52 Gogic 57

Motherwell (3) **3** Van Veen 9 33 Johnston 34 — **Livingston** (0) **0** 4,566

St Johnstone (0) **0** — **Ross County** (1) **2** Murray 45, Cancola 49

CINCH SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dundee	31	15	9	7	54	32	+22	**54**
Queen's Park	32	16	6	10	58	45	+13	**54**
Partick	32	15	6	11	58	40	+18	**51**
Ayr	32	14	8	10	57	41	+16	**50**
Inverness CT	31	12	9	10	44	42	+2	**45**
Morton	31	11	11	9	43	38	+5	**44**
Raith	31	11	8	12	42	41	+1	**41**
Arbroath	31	6	14	11	28	41	-13	**32**
Hamilton	31	7	8	16	28	56	-28	**29**
Cove Rangers	32	6	9	17	35	71	-36	**27**

Arbroath 0 Dundee 0; Ayr 1 Morton 1; Hamilton 1 Cove Rangers 1; Inverness CT 2 Raith 0.
Friday Partick 4 Queen's Park 0

Cricket scoreboard

THIRD T20 INTERNATIONAL
Queenstown Sri Lanka 182-6 (BKG Mendis 73). New Zealand 183-6 (TL Seifert 88). New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by four wickets and win series 2-1.

LV= COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Division One (final day of four)

Kent v Northamptonshire

Canterbury Kent (19pts) beat Northants (3) by seven wickets.
Northamptonshire First innings 117 (MR Quinn 4-25).
Kent First innings 222 (Z Crawley 91; CP Tremain 5-44, CJ White 4-57).
Northamptonshire Second innings (overnight 300-7)
RI Keogh not out **116**
GK Berg b Hogan **56**
CJ White lbw b Evison **7**
CP Tremain lbw b Evison **0**
Extras (b2, lb11) **13**
Total (117.3 overs) **331**
Fall cont 308, 319.
Bowling Quinn 28-4-70-2; Hogan 34-6-93-1; Stewart 8-3-22-0; Evison 25.3-3-62-4; Leaning 5-2-11-1; Denly 6-0-18-0; Bell-Drummond 11-2-42-2.
Kent Second innings
Z Crawley b Tremain **3**
BG Compton not out **114**
DJ Bell-Drummond b Berg **32**
JL Denly b Tremain **5**
JA Leaning not out **67**
Extras (lb4, nb2) **6**
Total (for 3, 64.5 overs) **227**
Fall 3, 44, 60.
Did not bat *†SW Billings, JDM Evison, G Stewart, MG Hogan, MR Quinn.
Bowling White 16-2-55-0; Tremain 13-4-40-2; Berg 10-2-38-1; Procter 10-2-25-0; Keogh 10.5-1-33-0; Sales 4-0-30-0; Cobb 1-0-2-0.
Toss Kent elected to field.
Umpires ID Blackwell and PJ Hartley.

Lancashire v Surrey

Old Trafford Lancashire (9pts) drew with Surrey (12).
Surrey First innings 442 (CT Steel 141no, BTFoakes 76, JL Smith 54; TE Bailey 4-86).
Lancashire First innings 291 (KK Jennings 76, C de Grandhomme 67no; SA Abbott 5-50).
Surrey Second innings 292-6 dec (BT Foakes 103no, RJ Burns 54; MW Parkinson 5-120).
Lancashire Second innings (overnight 37-0)
LWP Wells c Worrall b Roach **45**
***KK Jennings** b Clark **16**
JJ Bohannon b Worrall **108**
SJ Croft not out **56**
DJ Vilas not out **1**
Extras (b9, lb1, w3, nb8) **21**
Total (for 3, 87.1 overs) **247**
Fall 65, 65, 238.
Did not bat †GJ Bell, C de Grandhomme, L Wood, TE Bailey, WSA Williams, MW Parkinson.
Bowling Roach 18-3-39-1; Worrall 17-3-42-1; Steel 20-1-80-0; Abbott 15-5-39-0; Clark 14-4-25-1; Burns 2.1-0-2-0; Pope 1-0-10-0.
Toss Lancashire elected to field.
Umpires NA Mallender and DJ Millns.

Middlesex v Essex

Lord's Essex (20pts) beat Middlesex (3) by 97 runs.
Essex First innings 266 (DW Lawrence 105, MJJ Critchley 55; TS Roland-Jones 7-61).
Middlesex First innings 170 (RF Higgins 70, JA Simpson 63; JA Porter 6-35).
Essex Second innings 211 (MJJ Critchley 53; TJ Murtagh 4-44).
Middlesex Second innings (overnight 77-5)
SS Eskinazi lbw b Porter **37**
TG Helm c AN Cook b SJ Cook **0**
RF Higgins lbw b Snater **41**
LBK Hollman not out **63**
TS Roland-Jones c AN Cook b Snater **0**
TJ Murtagh b Porter **6**
Extras (b8, lb4) **12**
Total (83 overs) **210**
Fall cont 77, 93, 180, 180.
Bowling Porter 16-3-34-3; SJ Cook 17-6-31-3; Snater 14-7-34-2; Allison 11-4-23-0; Harmer 24-7-72-1; Critchley 1-0-4-1.
Toss Middlesex elected to field.
Umpires M Burns and RK Illingworth.

Somerset v Warwickshire

Taunton Somerset (9pts) drew with Warwickshire (11).
Somerset First innings 284 (L Gregory 65).
Warwickshire First innings (overnight 307-5)
SR Hain c Rew b Leach **119**
†MGK Burgess b Siddle **46**
JG Bethell b Davey **19**
Hasan Ali c Kohler-Cadmore b Gregory **15**
C Rushworth c Overton b Gregory **1**
OJ Hannon-Dalby not out **1**
Extras (lb2, w1, nb8) **11**
Total (109.5 overs) **392**
Fall cont 321, 350, 389, 391.
Bowling Davey 19-2-86-2; Overton 25-4-66-0; Siddle 20-5-47-2; Leach 29-5-119-4; Gregory 14.5-1-59-2; Bartlett 2-0-13-0.
Somerset Second innings
TA Lammonby not out **66**
SR Dickson c Yates b Hannon-Dalby **0**

Other results

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dunfermline	31	19	11	1	51	19	+32	**68**
Falkirk	31	16	9	6	58	32	+26	**57**
Airdrieonians	32	16	7	9	74	44	+30	**55**
Alloa	32	15	6	11	50	41	+9	**51**
Queen of the South	32	14	6	12	50	49	+1	**48**
FC Edinburgh	32	14	5	13	54	46	+8	**47**
Montrose	31	11	9	11	43	44	-1	**42**
Kelty Hearts	32	9	9	14	34	46	-12	**36**
Clyde	32	3	8	21	29	63	-34	**17**
Peterhead	31	3	6	22	15	74	-59	**15**

Airdrieonians 3 Montrose 0; Alloa 1 Queen of the South 2; Falkirk 2 Dunfermline 2; Kelty Hearts 0 Clyde 0; Peterhead 1 FC Edinburgh 0

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Stirling Albion	31	18	9	4	61	33	+28	**63**
Dumbarton	31	16	6	9	45	37	+8	**54**
Annan Athletic	32	13	8	11	55	46	+9	**47**
Forfar	32	12	9	11	35	38	-3	**45**
East Fife	32	12	8	12	44	47	-3	**44**
Stenhousemuir	31	11	10	10	47	47	0	**43**
Stranraer	32	10	8	14	37	47	-10	**38**
Bonnyrigg Rose	32	9	8	15	32	45	-13	**35**
Albion Rovers	32	9	6	17	41	41	0	**33**
Elgin	31	9	6	16	39	55	-16	**33**

Albion Rovers 3 Elgin 0; Annan Athletic 3 Dumbarton 1; Stenhousemuir 0 Bonnyrigg Rose 0; Stirling Albion 2 East Fife 2; Stranraer 0 Forfar 0

HIGHLAND LEAGUE

Brora 2 Formartine 1; Keith 1 Huntly 1; Nairn County 1 Clachnacuddin 0; Rothes 1 Deveronvale 1; Strathspey Thistle 0 Buckie Thistle 2; Turriff Utd 0 Wick Academy 3

LOWLAND LEAGUE

Berwick 3 East Kilbride 0; Caledonian Braves 0 Celtic B 1; Cowdenbeath 1 Civil Service Strollers 2; Cumbernauld Colts 2 Broomhill 1; Edinburgh University 4 Dalbeattie Star 0; Gala Fairydean 3 Gretna 0; Hearts B 5 East Stirlingshire 0; Rangers B 3 Stirling University 2; Tranent Juniors 0 Spartans 1

CYMRU PREMIER LEAGUE

Aberystwyth 1 Airbus UK 1; Cardiff Met 0 Connah's Quay 2; Penybont 2 The New Saints 5. **Friday** Bala Town 1 Newtown 2; Haverfordwest 2 Pontypridd 0

DANSKE BANK IRISH PREMIERSHIP

Friday Carrick 0 Newry 2; Cliftonville 2 Coleraine 2; Glenavon 1 Dungannon Swifts 1; Larne 2 Glentoran 0; Linfield 0 Crusaders 0; Portadown 1 Ballyemna Utd 0

AIRTRICITY IRISH PREMIER DIVISION

Friday Bohemians 0 Shamrock Rovers 2; Derry City 0 Drogheda 1; Dundalk 1 Sligo 2; St Patrick's 4 Cork 0; UCD 0 Shelbourne 0

LIGUE 1

Ajaccio 0 Auxerre 3; Angers 1 Lille 0; Lorient 0 Marseille 0; Lyon 3 Rennes 1; Montpellier 1 Toulouse 2; Nantes 2 Monaco 2; Nice 0 Paris St-Germain 2; Reims 1 Brest 1; Troyes 0 Clermont 2. **Friday** Lens 2 Strasbourg 1

BUNDESLIGA

(top eight)	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bayern Munich	27	17	7	3	77	29	+48	**58**
Borussia Dortmund	27	18	2	7	59	36	+23	**56**
Union Berlin	27	15	6	6	42	30	+12	**51**
RB Leipzig	27	14	6	7	50	33	+17	**48**
Freiburg	27	13	8	6	39	36	+3	**47**
Bayer Leverkusen	27	13	4	10	51	41	+10	**43**
Eintracht Frankfurt	27	11	8	8	48	40	+8	**41**
Mainz	27	11	8	8	45	38	+7	**41**

Augsburg 1 Köln 3; Bayer Leverkusen 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Bochum 2 VfB Stuttgart 3; Borussia Dortmund 2 Union Berlin 1; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 Wolfsburg 0; Freiburg 0 Bayern Munich 1; Hertha Berlin 0 RB Leipzig 1; Hoffenheim 2 Schalke 0; Mainz 2 Werder Bremen 2

SERIE A

(top eight)	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Napoli	29	24	2	3	66	21	+45	**74**
Lazio	29	17	7	5	46	20	+26	**58**
Roma	29	16	5	8	39	26	+13	**53**
Milan	29	15	7	7	48	36	+12	**52**
Internazionale	29	16	3	10	48	33	+15	**51**
Atalanta	29	14	6	9	47	34	+13	**48**
Juventus	29	18	5	6	47	24	+23	**44**
Bologna	29	12	7	10	38	36	+2	**43**

Atalanta 0 Bologna 2; Fiorentina 1 Spezia 1; Lazio 2 Juventus 1; Sampdoria 2 Cremonese 3; Torino 0 Roma 1; Udinese 2 Monza 2; Verona 2 Sassuolo 1. **Friday** Lecce 1 Napoli 2; Milan 0 Empoli 0; Salernitana 1 Internazionale 1

PRIMEIRA LIGA

Arouca 1 Marítimo 0; Braga 4 Estoril 1; Casa Pia 3 Sporting 4; Paços Ferreira 1 Famalicão 3; Portmonense 2 Rio Ave 2. **Today** Gil Vicente v Chaves (8.15pm)

LA LIGA

(top eight)	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barcelona	27	23	2	2	53	9	+44	**71**
Real Madrid	28	18	5	5	59	24	+35	**59**
Atlético Madrid	28	17	6	5	45	20	+25	**57**
Real Sociedad	28	15	6	7	37	26	+11	**51**
Villarreal	28	14	5	9	37	26	+11	**47**
Real Betis	27	13	6	8	34	27	+7	**45**
Athletic Bilbao	28	11	7	10	38	29	+9	**40**
Osasuna	28	10	8	10	24	28	-4	**38**

Almería 2 Valencia 1; Espanyol 1 Athletic Bilbao 2; Osasuna 2 Elche 1; Rayo Vallecano 1 Atlético Madrid 2; Real Betis 0 Cádiz 2; Real Madrid 2 Villarreal 3; Real Sociedad 2 Getafe 0; Real Valladolid 3 Mallorca 3. **Friday** Sevilla 2 Celta Vigo 2. **Today** Barcelona v Girona (8pm)



▲ *Josha Vagnoman celebrates after scoring for VfB Stuttgart against Bochum*
BERND THISSEN/DPA/AP

Rugby union

HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP

Quarter-finals Exeter 42 Stormers 17; La Rochelle 24 Saracens 10; Toulouse 54 Sharks 20. **Friday** Leinster 55 Leicester 24

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP

Quarter-finals Benetton 27 Cardiff 23; Glasgow 31 Lions 21; Toulon 48 Lyon 23. **Friday** Scarlets 32 Clermont Auvergne 30

RFU CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Ealing	19	17	0	2	791	312	19	**87**
Jersey	19	17	1	1	716	344	15	**85**
Coventry	19	14	1	4	630	462	15	**73**
Bedford	19	11	0	8	626	523	17	**61**
Cornish Pirates	19	10	0	9	441	462	8	**48**
Doncaster	19	9	0	10	500	527	10	**46**
Hartpury	19	9	0	10	445	512	9	**45**
Ampthill	19	8	1	10	470	511	11	**45**
Caldy	19	7	0	12	418	575	11	**39**
Nottingham	19	6	0	13	466	597	12	**36**
Richmond	19	3	1	15	323	657	6	**20**
London Scottish	19	1	0	18	328	672	9	**13**

Ampthill 21 Coventry 45; Doncaster 24 Jersey 52

NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO

North Sheffield RUFC 12 Wharfedale 38

Rugby league

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
Warrington	8	8	0	0	252	96	+156	**16**
Wigan	8	6	0	2	206	85	+121	**12**
Catalans Dragons	8	6	0	2	192	128	+64	**12**
Hull KR	8	5	0	3	192	120	+72	**10**
St Helens	7	4	0	3	138	89	+49	**8**
Salford	8	4	0	4	178	163	+15	**8**
Leeds	8	4	0	4	149	161	-12	**8**
Huddersfield	7	3	0	4	127	94	+33	**6**
Leigh	8	3	0	5	136	181	-45	**6**
Castleford	8	2	0	6	90	200	-110	**4**
Hull FC	8	2	0	6	108	264	-156	**4**
Wakefield	8	0	0	8	47	234	-187	**0**

Catalans Dragons 14 Warrington 20; Leeds 18 Huddersfield 17; Leigh 20 Salford 22. **Friday** Hull FC 0 Hull KR 40; Wigan 14 St Helens 6

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
Featherstone	8	8	0	0	360	72	+288	**16**
Toulouse	8	6	0	2	278	86	+192	**12**
Sheffield	8	6	0	2	247	130	+117	**12**
Widnes	8	5	0	3	195	146	+49	**10**
Halifax	7	4	0	3	154	166	-12	**8**
Bradford	7	4	0	3	132	148	-16	**8**
Keighley	8	4	0	4	184	200	-16	**8**
Batley	8	4	0	4	150	183	-33	**8**
York	8	3	0	5	138	167	-29	**6**
London Broncos	8	3	0	5	152	198	-46	**6**
Whitehaven	8	3	0	5	104	240	-136	**6**
Swinton	8	2	0	6	96	210	-114	**4**
Barrow	8	1	1	6	112	178	-66	**3**
Newcastle	8	1	1	6	108	286	-178	**3**

Friday Barrow 14 Whitehaven 16; Batley 18 Featherstone 26; Newcastle 20 Sheffield 44; Swinton 16 Widnes 48; Toulouse 50 London Broncos 0; York 10 Keighley 22

BETFRED LEAGUE ONE

Cornwall 16 Doncaster 48. **Friday** Dewsbury 12 Hunslet 6; Oldham 56 Rochdale 16; Workington 20 North Wales 18

BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

Group One Leeds 12 York 34

Golf

THE MASTERS (Augusta, US)

Leading third-round scores (US unless stated)
205 B Koepka 65 67 73. **207** J Rahm (Sp) 65 69 73. **208** V Hovland (Nor) 65 73 70. **210** P Cantlay 71 71 68. **211** R Henley 73 67 71; H Matsuyama (Jpn) 71 70 70. **212** C Morikawa 69 69 74; S Bennett 68 68 76. **213** J Day (Aus) 67 72 74; S Lowry (Ire) 68 72 73; P Reed 71 70 72; J Rose (Eng) 69 71 73; X Schauffele 68 74 71; G Woodland 68 72 73. **214** M Fitzpatrick (Eng) 70 72 72; Im S-j (Kor) 71 76 67; J Niemann (Chl) 71 69 74; C Young 67 72 75; S Scheffler 68 75 71. **215** R Fox (NZ) 70 71 74; Lee K-h (Kor) 74 67 74; P Mickelson 71 69 75; T Moore 73 72 70; J Spieth 69 70 76. **216** K Bradley 70 72 74; T Finau 69 74 73; T Hatton (Eng) 71 73 72; M Homa 71 73 72; Kim J-h (Kor) 70 72 74; C Kirk 70 74 72; S Stallings 70 77 69; S Theegala 73 70 73. **217** A Ancer (Mex) 72 71 74; S Burns 68 71 78; T Fleetwood (Eng) 72 71 74; Kim S-w (Kor) 73 72 72; C Smith (Aus) 70 72 75; S Straka (Aut) 70 73 74. **218** S Power (Ire) 73 72 73. **219** H English 71 71 77; T Gooch 72 74 73; M Hughes (Can) 76 69 74; Z Johnson 75 70 74; T Pieters (Bel) 74 73 72; A Scott (Aus) 68 74 77; H Varner III 72 71 76. **220** C Schwartzel (SA) 74 73 73. **221** F Couples 71 74 76; B Horschel 73 74 74; D Johnson 71 72 78; G Mito Pereira (Chl) 74 70 77. **222** JT Poston 74 72 76. 223 K Mitchell 75 71 77.

Tennis

ATP CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Houston, US)

Quarter-finals: Y Hanfmann (Ger) bt T Machac (Cz) 6-2 6-1; **T Etcheverry** (Arg) bt C Garín (Chl) 6-1 6-7 (2-7) 6-3; **G Brouwer** (Neth) bt J Wolf (US) 6-3 6-4; **F Tiafoe** (US) bt J Kubler (Aus) 6-4 6-4.

ATP GRAND PRIX HASSAN II (Marrakech, Morocco)

Final: R Carballes Baena (Sp) bt A Muller (Fr) 4-6 7-6 (7-3) 6-2.

ATP MILLENNIUM OPEN (Estoril, Portugal)

Final: C Ruud (Nor) bt M Kecmanovic (Ser) 6-2 7-6 (7-3).

ATP MONTE CARLO MASTERS (Monaco)

First round: N Jarry (Chl) bt B Coric (Cro) 6-2 6-3; **J Munar** (Sp) bt M Hüsler (Swi) 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 6-4; **H Hurkacz** (Pol) bt L Djere (Ser) 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (7-5).

WTA CHARLESTON OPEN (South Carolina, US)

Semi-finals: O Jabeur (Tun) bt D Kasatkina (Rus) 7-5 7-5; **B Bencic** (Swi) bt J Pegula (US) 7-5 7-6 (7-5).

WTA COPA COLSANITAS (Bogotá, Colombia)

Semi-finals: P Stearns (US) bt K Rakhimova (Rus) 3-6 6-2 6-2; **T Maria** (Ger) bt F Jones (GB) 6-3 6-4.

Basketball

BBL CHAMPIONSHIP

Leicester 87 Newcastle 78; Manchester 90 London 96; Plymouth 80 Caledonia 85; Sheffield 89 Cheshire 75; Surrey 87 Plymouth 89

Ice hockey

ELITE LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS

First leg Belfast 4 Glasgow 2; Coventry 1 Cardiff 5; Nottingham 4 Guildford 1
Second leg Sheffield 5 Manchester 2 (agg 7-4)

Motorcycling

BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP (Silverstone)

Race one: 1 K Ryde (GB) Yamaha 19min 43.658sec; **2** T Bridewell (GB) Ducati +0.436; **3** J Brookes (Aus) BMW +1.664; **4** J O'Halloran (Aus) Yamaha +1.867; **5** G Irwin (GB) Ducati +2.541; **6** L Haslam (GB) BMW +2.764.
Race two: 1 J Brookes (Aus) BMW 24min 14.925sec; **2** T Bridewell (GB) Ducati +0.094; **3** G Irwin (GB) Ducati +0.603; **4** K Ryde (GB) Yamaha +0.669; **5** J O'Halloran (Aus) Yamaha +1.004; **6** L Haslam (GB) BMW +1.709.
Race three: 1 G Irwin (GB) Ducati 26min 55.706sec; **2** J Brookes (Aus) BMW +0.120; **3** T Bridewell (GB) Ducati +0.412; **4** J O'Halloran (Aus) Yamaha +1.179; **5** D Kent (GB) Honda +1.297; **6** L Haslam (GB) BMW +2.037.

Greg Wood's racing tips

Huntingdon 1.05 Norley **1.35** Brentford Hope **2.10** Kakamora **2.45** Titanium Bullet **3.20** Patient Dream **3.55** Brandisova **4.27** Bob Bob Ricard
Chepstow 1.25 Mount Tempest **2.00** Lagonda **2.35** Ballinsker **3.10** Not Available **3.45** Gwennie May Boy **4.18** Ballybeen **4.55** Two To Tango **5.35** U Cant Be Serious
Wolverhampton 1.41 Painters Palette **2.18** Old Harrovian **2.53** Doctor Mozart **3.28** Odin Owns You All **4.03** Sweet Mist **4.38** The Thunderer **5.13** Westmorian
Redcar 1.44 Theme Park **2.16** Bonito Cavalo **2.51** Ireland's Eye **3.26** Paramaribo **4.01** The Cookstown Cafu **4.36** Blind Beggar **5.11** Edmund Ironside **5.46** Smile And Pay
Fakenham 1.57 Havaila **2.32** Enduring Love **3.07** East End Girl **3.42** Swaffham Bulbeck **4.17** Boldmere **4.52** Firak **5.27** Mistral Milly
Kempton 2.20 Action Point **2.55** Rich **3.30** Slipofthepen **4.05** Max Mayhem (nb) **4.40** Laurel **5.15** Naval Commander **5.50** Silver Samurai
Plumpton 2.23 Copshill Lad **2.58** Stepney Causeway **3.33** Ohnodonttakemehome **4.08** Black Gerry **4.43** One For The Wall **5.18** River Tyne **5.53** Carrigmoorna Rowan

Cricket *County roundup*

Bohannon keeps Surrey at bay to force opening draw

Tanya Aldred
Emirates Old Trafford

Last April, with a championship double-century under his belt, Josh Bohannon was being mentioned alongside Harry Brook as a possible England player. It was Brook who boarded the space rocket to the stratosphere, though, while Bohannon made steady progress in a productive winter with the Lions.

But on Easter Sunday, his 26th birthday, Bohannon's low-slung street-fighting, with doughty support from Steven Croft, took **Lancashire** to a draw against **Surrey**, champions last year. His hundred, off 173 balls, included 14 fours, two particularly memorable ones hammered through the covers.

An astonishing turnaround in Leeds where **Leicestershire**, wooden spoonists last year, chased down 389 in 87 overs to beat **Yorkshire** at Headingley for the first time since 1910, clinched with seven balls to spare. Rishi Patel laid the table for the bold pursuit with his maiden first-class hundred, and the dashers danced about him, barely slowing as wickets fell – Dom Bess took five.

Sussex whittled down the 59 they needed to beat **Durham** in a nervy hour, winning their opening championship match of the season for the first time since 2015.

Despite an obdurate partnership between Ryan Higgins and Luke Hollman, **Middlesex** could not recover from their disastrous top-order batting, losing against **Essex** by 97 runs. Ben Compton proved that last year was no fluke, with an unbeaten 114 to take **Kent** to a 19-point win against **Northamptonshire**.

Tom Lammonby (66 not out) had to listen to the familiar thud of wickets falling at the other end, as **Warwickshire**'s Oliver Hannon-Dalby and Chris Rushworth gave **Somerset** a scare at Taunton. But together with Lewis Gregory and Craig Overton, the home team hauled themselves to safety. Jake Libby and Azhar Ali's partnership of 139 sped **Worcestershire** to victory against **Derbyshire** at Derby; and Graeme van Buuren's 110 took **Gloucestershire** to safety in a topsy-turvy game against **Glamorgan** at Sophia Gardens.



▲ *Lancashire's Josh Bohannon opens the season with a century*

CT Bancroft lbw b Hannon-Dalby 0
T Kohler-Cadmore c Hain b Rushworth 15
GA Bartlett b Hasan Ali 20
JEK Rew b Rushworth 14
L Gregory b Hannon-Dalby 26
C Overton not out 29
Extras (b2, lb5, w1, nb2) 10
Total (for 6, 50 overs) 180
Fall 0, 2, 25, 62, 92, 127.
Did not bat JH Davey, PM Siddle, MJ Leach.
Bowling Rushworth 11-2-33-2; Hannon-Dalby 11-5-21-3; Hasan Ali 10-0-52-1; Barnard 5-0-20-0; Bethell 7-2-28-0; Yates 4-2-8-0; Mousley 2-0-11-0.
Toss Somerset elected to bat.
Umpires RJ Bailey and AG Wharf.

(finished on Saturday)
Ageas Bowl Nottinghamshire 185 (Mohammad Abbas 6-49) and 177 (BM Duckett 51; KJ Abbott 4-39). Hampshire 231 (FS Middleton 59) and 132-2 (FS Middleton 65, NRT Gubbins 54no). Hampshire (19pts) beat Nottinghamshire (3) by eight wickets.

Division Two (final day of four)

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

Derby Worcestershire (22pts) beat Derbyshire (5) by eight wickets.
Derbyshire First innings 321 (WL Madsen 87, BA Godleman 70; MJ Waite 4-50).
Worcestershire 473 (MJ Waite 109no, BL D'Oliveira 89, JA Haynes 62; Z Chappell 5-69).
Derbyshire Second innings (overnight 269-6)
JL du Plooy not out 95
Z Chappell st Roderick b Leach 45
BW Aitchison c Gibbon b Tongue 0
S Conners c Pollock b Tongue 4
R A S Lakmal lbw b Tongue 0
Extras (b2, lb7, nb6) 15
Total (95.5 overs) 343
Fall cont 324, 327, 335.
Bowling Leach 30-7-86-3; Tongue 21.5-0-98-3; Gibbon 16-2-57-1; Waite 15-4-56-1; D'Oliveira 13-0-37-2.
Worcestershire Second innings
EJ Pollock c Guest b Aitchison 13
JD Libby not out 104
Azhar Ali lbw b Chappell 62
JA Haynes not out 10
Extras (lb4) 4
Total (for 2, 42.1 overs) 193
Fall 17, 156.
Did not bat AJ Hose, *BL D'Oliveira, †GH Roderick, MJ Waite, J Leach, JC Tongue, BJ Gibbon.
Bowling Lakmal 5-0-29-0; Aitchison 8-0-33-1; Chappell 9-1-43-1; Conners 5-0-15-0; Dal 7.1-0-30-0; Lamb 8-1-39-0.
Toss Worcestershire elected to field.
Umpires NL Bainton and PK Baldwin.

Glamorgan v Gloucestershire

Sophia Gardens Glamorgan (12pts) drew with Gloucestershire (8).
Gloucestershire First innings 165 (MJ Harris 59; TJ van der Gugten 5-26).
Glamorgan First innings 404 (WT Root 117no, KA Carlson 106, EJ Byrom 81; TJ Price 4-56).
Gloucestershire Second innings (overnight 373-5)
GL van Buuren not out 110
JMR Taylor c Cooke b Podmore 38
Zafar Gohar c sub b Carlson 28
TJ Price not out 55
Extras (lb3, w1, nb4) 8
Total (for 7 dec, 138 overs) 569
Fall cont 435, 481.
Did not bat M de Lange, AS Dale.
Bowling Podmore 24-3-95-2; Van der Gugten 28-2-89-2; Harris 26-2-128-0; Douthwaite 22-3-97-1; Carlson 30-2-122-2; Lloyd 7-0-31-0; Byrom 1-0-4-0.
Glamorgan Second innings
***DL Lloyd** c Harris b TJ Price 6
EJ Byrom not out 36
CA Ingram b Zafar Gohar 16
KS Carlson c JMR Taylor b TJ Price 1
WT Root not out 39
Extras (b4, lb4, nb4) 12
Total (for 3, 37 overs) 110
Fall 6, 35, 38.
Did not bat SA Northeast, †CB Cooke, DA Douthwaite, JAR Harris, T van der Gugten, HW Podmore.
Bowling TJ Price 5-0-21-2; Zafar Gohar 16-2-41-1; De Lange 6-1-23-0; Van Buuren 4-1-4-0; OJ Price 3-0-8-0; JMR Taylor 2-0-5-0; Harris 1-1-0-0.
Toss Glamorgan elected to field.
Umpires M Newell and SJ O'Shaughnessy.

Sussex v Durham

Hove Sussex (21pts) beat Durham (6) by two wickets.
Durham First innings 376 (MA Jones 87, AZ Lees 79; NJ McAndrew 5-85).
Sussex First innings 335 (CA Pujara 115).
Durham Second innings 189 (OG Robinson 58; FJ Hudson-Prentice 4-27, HT Crocombe 4-47).
Sussex Second innings (overnight 172-5)
SF Hunt c Robinson b Carse 14
†OJ Carter not out 33
FJ Hudson-Prentice c McKinney b Kuhnemann 6
NJ McAndrew st Robinson b Kuhnemann 1
JJ Carson not out 0
Extras (lb9, w8) 17
Total (for 8, 67 overs) 232
Fall cont 193, 202, 208.
Did not bat GHS Garton, HT Crocombe.
Bowling Potts 19-2-87-0; Raine 10-3-28-1; Carse 14-3-38-3; Kuhnemann 24-5-70-4.
Toss Sussex elected to field.
Umpires JA Middlebrook and BV Taylor.

Yorkshire v Leicestershire

Headingley Leicestershire (22pts) beat Yorkshire (7) by three wickets.
Yorkshire First innings 517 (DJ Malan 132, FJ Bean 118, ME Milnes 75).
Leicestershire 415 (PSP Handscomb 112, R Ahmed 85, CN Ackermann 67, CJC Wright 66no).
Yorkshire Second innings (overnight 220-4)
SD Hope c Patel b Hull 83
GCH Hill c Ackermann b Wright 67
JA Thompson c Ahmed b Hull 13
ML Revis not out 22
DM Bess c Handscomb b Finan 2
ME Milnes not out 15
Extras (lb6, nb12) 18
Total (for 8 dec, 54 overs) 286
Fall cont 236, 260, 263.
Did not bat BO Coad.
Bowling Finan 12-0-59-2; Wright 9-2-52-2; Hull 8-0-68-3; Ahmed 14-1-67-1; Ackermann 11-1-34-0.
Leicestershire Second innings
RK Patel c Hope b Coad 125
SG Budinger c Thompson b Bess 41
***LJ Hill** c Hope b Bess 3
CN Ackermann lbw b Bess 72
†PSP Handscomb not out 68
PWA Mulder c Thompson b Bess 11
R Ahmed st Hope b Bess 10
M Finan c Bean b Milnes 5
CJC Wright not out 40
Extras (b2, lb10, w5) 17
Total (for 7, 85.5 overs) 392
Fall 80, 88, 201, 269, 298, 318, 327.
Did not bat MET Salisbury, J Hull.
Bowling Coad 14-5-55-1; Milnes 12-0-62-1; Thompson 11.5-2-58-0; Bess 32-1-158-5; Revis 5-0-21-0; Hill 11-4-26-0.
Toss Leicestershire elected to field.
Umpires BJ Debenham and PR Pollard.

▼ *Jon Rahm plays from the 18th tee on the way to his first Green Jacket*
CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY



Rahm shows nerves of steel to follow in Seve's footsteps

Ewan Murray
Augusta

Jokes about LIV golfers and their inability to keep pace in 72-hole competition would be appropriate had Phil Mickelson not emerged as such a threat to Jon Rahm.

As Brooks Koepka collapsed in Rahm's shadow, his fellow LIV rebel Mickelson rolled back the years. But Rahm would not be denied. It felt like Spanish stars aligned as he sampled victory on what would have been the 66th birthday of Seve Ballesteros. Rahm's second major title comes 40 years after Ballesteros collected Green Jacket number two.

It seemed extraordinary to recall Rahm's Masters opened with a four-putt, double-bogey six. By close of play, he had raced to 12 under par. Victory was by four shots. Olé, olé, olé.

Koepka is the alpha male whose game turned stale. A final round of 75 belied his confidence. From early in proceedings, Koepka wilted to a level that visibly inspired Rahm. A tie for second with Mickelson will provide scant consolation.

Mickelson's final round of 65 suggests tales of his golfing demise have been hugely exaggerated. His previously sparkling reputation has undoubtedly been dulled by various LIV matters. Still, his majors record had also been pretty dismal from the point of sensational victory at the 2021 US PGA Championship until now. There may be further life in the 52-year-old "Lefty" yet. As if to prove Georgia golf crowds care little about dalliances with Saudi Arabians bearing dollars, Mickelson was roared from hole to hole over his closing stretch.

"This doesn't feel like a fluke," said Mickelson, the spring in his step fully restored. "Hopefully it's a stepping stone. I know I've been playing really well. I've been shooting low scores back home. I've been playing consistently well. When I've been competing, I have not been staying present. I haven't been letting it happen, kind of forcing it."

Koepka led by two at the start of a delayed round four. As he delivered confident pars in the first three holes, his tendency to feature in 54 hole competition – the LIV staple – appeared irrelevant. Yet Rahm had halved his partner's advantage with a birdie at the 3rd and would tie Koepka after the latter sloppily found a bunker from the 4th tee. When Koepka sailed his iron shot over the 6th green and could not rescue par, the unflappable Rahm edged one ahead.

Rahm reached 11 under with a birdie at the 8th. Koepka sat at minus nine after a dropped shot a hole later. By now, and with Mickelson in the clubhouse, Rahm just had to stay upright. He comfortably made a par at the 11th. The 12th, which has ripped apart Masters dreams, provided no drama. Koepka dropped another stroke there, leaving him three adrift. The Floridian bounced back with a fine birdie, converted from 14ft, at the par-five 13th. Rahm was unmoved; he also made a four, from a third of that distance.

Rahm's approach shot to the 14th,

Top of leaderboard

-12	Jon Rahm *Sp*
-8	Phil Mickelson *US*
-8	Brooks Koepka *US*
-7	Jordan Spieth *US*
-7	Patrick Reed *US*
-7	Russell Henley *US*
-6	Cameron Young *US*
-6	Viktor Hovland *Nor*



from the right rough, was his shot of the day. It rolled deliciously to within 5ft of the cup. Koepka three putted for a five as Rahm trickled in his birdie three. Rahm was four clear of Mickelson and five in front of Koepka with four to play. He had no need to take on the teasing 15th in two.

Koepka's muted celebration for a birdie at the 16th told a story. Rahm had three shots to play with by the 17th tee. He eased him home, even with a wayward drive at the 18th hole.

For a spell, Jordan Spieth looked like the man most likely to challenge Rahm. Having started his fourth round at minus one, the 2015 champion collected five shots by the 15th tee.

Two more birdies followed but Spieth tugged his tee shot left at the last when trying to hit a low fade. From there, behind a tree to be specific, he could make no better than a bogey five. Spieth correctly focused on damage done in earlier rounds; a 70 and a 76 were bookended by a 69 and a 66.

"When you're that far back, you have to have everything go right," Spieth said. "It was close but I should have done a lot better in those first three rounds. I made a tremendous amount of mental mistakes. To be this close now, it's nice, but it also almost frustrates me more. I made some mistakes I don't normally make out here and it was more decision errors than anything else. I played way too much golf coming into this. I came in mentally fatigued and you overwork this week every year." Patrick Reed and Russel Henley tied on seven under with Spieth.

Scottie Scheffler's defence ended with a 70 and a four under par aggregate for a share of 10th. Matt Fitzpatrick, with a welcome return to form after injury, was among those to match Scheffler's score.

The next publication of golf's world rankings will confirm Rahm has been restored as world No 1. This, and a cheque for $3.24m, feel like minor details. At 28, the man from Barrika is a multiple major champion. The Ballesteros tally of five should be firmly in his sights.

Analysis

Andy Bull *Augusta*

Koepka used to be utterly ruthless in his pursuit of majors but he missed this opportunity

It was just gone four o'clock when Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka made it to Juniper, Augusta's precipitous little par-three 6th. The sun had come out, the clouds had scattered and the mercury was finally rising. Koepka had only just given up the lead he had been holding since he made a birdie to pull one shot clear on Friday morning. He and Rahm were tied in first place now, 10 under par, four shots clear of the field, and the gallery all around was waiting for Koepka to come back at him. Rahm had the honour. His tee shot was off. It landed on the front lip of the green and rolled back off it, 25 yards shy.

So this was Koepka's opportunity. And he missed it. Koepka blew his tee shot way over the other way, off the back of the green and 10 yards on again. He watched Rahm swish a chip up to 6ft, settled himself for his - and pushed it five, 10, 15, 20, 25 feet from where he needed it to be. More often than not, Koepka scowls when he hits a bad shot. But after this one he just watched, dumbstruck, as the ball skittered further and further away from him, taking his hold on the 87th Masters with it.

Before this week Koepka had held the lead at the start of the last round of a major three times in his life: at the US Open at Shinnecock Hills in 2018, the PGA Championship at Bellerive later that same year and the PGA Championship again at Bethpage Black 12 months later. He won all three tournaments. Back then Koepka was playing from what David Mamet's salesmen might call the ABC school of golf. Always. Be. Closing. He was utterly ruthless in the pursuit of majors, which were, he said repeatedly, the only tournaments he cared about.

It was six months after that second PGA Championship that Koepka shattered his knee cap in a freak accident. It took him three years to recover properly from it and there were points along the way when he was not sure if he ever would. He admitted this week that it was one of the reasons he ended up quitting the PGA Tour to join LIV last year, a bit of him wondered if his best days were behind him, whether he would ever be able to compete on even terms with Rahm and the rest of them again. Until this week plenty of people would have agreed with him.

It was only this January that Koepka began to feel anything like himself again. And for the first three days of this tournament, he played that way. He opened with a round of 65 and followed it with a flawless 67, in which he made a series of saves and picked up shots at the par-fives. He played both rounds the old way, following one good decision after another. There are plenty of better shotmakers in golf but not many so adept at understanding exactly what they need to in each new moment and then following through on it.

There was a brilliant example of it during his third round early yesterday morning. When he came to the 10th, he was two shots in front of Rahm. Both chose to play the same sort of shot off the tee, a draw around the corner. Rahm caught his perfectly but Koepka did not. His ball fetched up in the pine straw, beneath a clump of trees on the right hand side of the fairway. Only moments earlier Collin Morikawa's tee shot had fetched up in the very same place and he had to take a one-shot penalty for an unplayable lie.

Koepka, though, found he had a route out. He chopped his ball out square, hit a brilliant approach on to the front of the green and somehow ended up coming away with a par. It was a moment that made one believe what he had said on Friday evening, when he was asked how he compared himself now with the player who won those four majors, "I feel the same, man. I'm able to do everything I need to. And the confidence is there. The confidence was lost just because of my knee and that was it."

It turns out now that really he was still trying to persuade himself. Because as yesterday wore on it became clear that everything he has been through has had more of an effect on him than he is willing to admit. As the day wore on, he got worse and worse, the bogeys racked up, the birdies passed by. His game was blighted by wild drives, skittish chips and putts that stopped short or passed by wide. For the first time in his life, when the heavy pressure of frontrunning in a major came down, Koepka's game failed him. He may yet win that fifth major he is seeking. But after his performance here, it is obvious he has got a way to go before he gets back to the sort of pitiless form that won him the first four.



◀ *Brooks Koepka plays his second shot at the 14th through the trees on his way to a bogey five* MIKE BLAKE/ REUTERS

Rugby union

Saracens fail to match power of defending champions

La Rochelle	**24**
Saracens	**10**

Ian Malin

Billy Vunipola hobbled away from Stade Marcel-Deflandre on crutches after injuring his knee midway through the first half of this bruising afternoon for Saracens on the Atlantic coast as the Premiership pacesetters limped out of the Champions Cup. The bludgeoning power of the champions ensured them a home semi-final with Exeter in Bordeaux and the very real prospect of an all-French final in Dublin next month.

La Rochelle, with their monstrous pack, could not match the colour and panache that had helped Toulouse sweep the Sharks aside 24 hours earlier but they are an unstoppable force in this mood and at this stadium they have now won 11 successive matches in Europe. Two tries from their All Blacks scrum-half Tawera Kerr-Barlow were the difference between the sides but, in truth, the scoreline flattered Saracens.

The European champions had not been at their best against Gloucester the previous week but were back to their ruthless best at the breakdown. Saracens, ill-disciplined and inaccurate in the execution of their attacking moves, looked nothing like the side that has been so dominant in the Premiership this season.

The port of La Rochelle may only have a population of 75,000 but most of them seemed to have turned up at their fortress, so loud was the volume on a sunny afternoon of perfect spring weather. The game emphasised the growing gulf between the elite Top 14 clubs and their English counterparts; Billy Vunipola's wounded knee, an injury that will bring his season to a premature end, somehow symbolic of the fortunes of the domestic and national game back home.

Saracens knew that a storm was going to blow in on the Bay of Biscay and sure enough La Rochelle pinned them back in their own half in the early stages, Antoine Hastoy landing two penalties and striking an upright with a third attempt.

The visitors weathered that early squall but if the sight of first Jamie George having treatment to an injured knee was bad enough, seeing Billy Vunipola carried off on a stretcher was a crushing blow for Saracens on a day they needed all the power they could muster from their England international forwards.

George played on and Owen Farrell and Hastoy traded penalties but La Rochelle's pack battered their way through the Saracens defence with a series of drives that allowed Kerr-Barlow to dart over, eluding Alex Goode on a curving run to the line.

Just before the hour mark Levani Botia's storming run gave Kerr-Barlow his chance for a second try and the game was as good as over. Eroni Mawi, a replacement prop for Saracens, scored a try after a surge by the pack from a lineout and Ben Earl was held up just over the line after Brice Dulin had been shown a yellow card for a high tackle on Alex Lewington.

Saracens ended defiantly but were also reduced to 14 men when Tom Woolstencroft, their replacement hooker, ended up in the sin-bin after a clash of heads with the former Saracen Will Skelton.

Near the end the replacement Yoan Tanga breached the Saracens defence a third time but the try was ruled out after an intervention from the TMO, Joy Neville, who spotted a slight knock-on at the lineout. Tanga had replaced the man-of-the-match Botia after an hour. The Fijian back-rower Botia is nicknamed "The Demolition Man" in these parts and he helped reduce Saracens' European ambitions to rubble.

La Rochelle
Dulin; Favre, Seuteni, Danty (Thomas 69), Rhule; Hastoy, Kerr-Barlow (Boudehent 70); Wardi (Thompson-Stringer 57), Bourgarit (Lespiaucq 43), Atonio, Lavault, Skelton, Dillane, L Botia (Tangia 60), Gregory, Alldritt
Try Kerr-Barlow 2
Con Hastoy
Pen Hastoy 4
Sin-bin Dulin (73)

Saracens
Goode (Lewington 66); Malins, Lozowski, Tompkins (Taylor 55), Maitland; Farrell, Van Zyl; M Vunipola (Mawi 61), George (Woolstencroft 61), Riccioni (Judge 61), Itoje, Tizard (Hunter-Hill 69), Isiekwe, Earl, B Vunipola (Wray 21)
Try Mawi
Con Farrell
Pen Farrell

Referee Andrew Brace (Ire)



▲ *Owen Farrell tries to rally his teammates Alex Goode and Alex Lozowski*
ROMAIN PERROCHEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

▼ *York's Tara-Jane Stanley evades Sophie Nuttall and flies over the line*
ALLAN MCKENZIE/SWPIX.COM



Rugby league Women's Super League

Dodd delivers for York on historic first payday

Leeds	**12**
York	**34**

Aaron Bower
Headingley

For anyone on the hunt for an afternoon of sporting progressivism and a sign of a game on the up there cannot have been many better places to be yesterday afternoon than Headingley. While Yorkshire's County Championship opener against Leicestershire was played to a finale in front of a few hundred members on one side of the Headingley campus, on the other side of the new multimillion-pound stand records tumbled on a momentous day for women's rugby league. A few years ago clubs such as Leeds and York did not even have women's rugby league sides.

In fact, the best players in the country were restricted to performing on local playing fields, with those early trailblazers of the women's game always quick to recall the tales of clearing broken glass off the fields before they put their kit on.

The question was always going to be what sort of a legacy the 2023 Women's Super League could build after last year's World Cup: here we received an encouraging opening answer.

"The women's game has the potential to be the fastest-growing and most exciting part of rugby league," the Leeds head coach, Lois Forsell, said. "It's a slow burner, though; we've got to be patient and we've got to get it right."

Leeds have made the commitment to playing as many of their WSL games alongside their male counterparts in double-headers this year. Others have followed suit. But the women's side is building a core support all of its own, evidenced by the number of young girls here sporting shirts adorning the names of their new heroines, players such as the England superstar Amy Hardcastle and the New Zealand sensation Georgia Hale.

They were part of a record WSL crowd, with 5,308 people watching the 2022 champions fall to defeat against an impressive York Valkyrie outfit in a Grand Final rematch. For the first time there were more than competition points on the line, too. Leeds and York announced over the winter that they would be the first clubs to introduce payments for their players this season, albeit limited to win bonuses rather than full-time professional contracts.



Hollie-Mae Dodd gets a hug for her try against Leeds

Nonetheless, it is a huge step forward for women's rugby league, one which was unimaginable even two years ago, and one which meant that both these teams were playing to become the first WSL team to be paid for their on-field efforts. In the end it was York who earned that honour. "That's a fact, we're the first team to pay our players, aren't we?" the York director of rugby, Lindsay Anfield, said with a smile afterwards.

"How exciting for them and for us as a club that they're the first group of women's players to get money in the bank. A couple of years ago I was selling raffle tickets before the games when I was coaching Castleford. Today was a different level and in terms of the ceiling for this sport … who knows now?" It is an exciting thought, given how far we have come since the competition's beginning in 2017.

The progression of the WSL was emphasised further by the growing speculation some of the competition's best players are heading for the NRL Women's Premiership in Australia this year, where the players are predominantly full-time. The Leeds duo Fran Goldthorp and Georgia Roche are being courted, with both expected to leave.

York's Hollie-Mae Dodd, who scored in their 34-12 win, will go, with Anfield confirming post-match: "She'll announce it when she's ready but she'll definitely go, and we're behind her." Dodd will sign for Canberra, while Roche is likely to join Newcastle.

Participation among girls under-16 has increased by 200% in the five months since the World Cup. Some of the stars of tomorrow will have been here to watch these trailblazers and, on a day when payments for players finally became a reality, one could not help but wonder what sort of ceiling those young girls who have been inspired to take up the game could be faced with in a few years, given the trajectory this sport has enjoyed so far.

‘My stammer made me scared to talk … Now if I have to say something, I say it’

Dayot Upamecano discusses how football helped his speech and Bayern Munich’s clash with Manchester City



Jacob Steinberg



▼ *Dayot Upamecano is one of the best young defenders in the world*
ED ALCOCK/THE GUARDIAN

‘It’s much easier to have Mbappé in your team. He is the best player in the world – he is extraordinary’

‘Today I’m proud because I’ve progressed a lot,” Dayot Upamecano says as he reflects on finding his voice and overcoming the fear that rippled through him when he had to speak up at school. The Bayern Munich centre-back, an important figure for France during their run to the final of the 2022 World Cup, was eight when he first experienced problems with his speech and he has not forgotten the taunts that would fly in his direction during childhood.

“I was very scared,” Upamecano admits on a still afternoon at Clairefontaine, France’s celebrated training centre. “When you have a stammer as a kid you’re scared to talk. You don’t want to go up to the blackboard, or communicate in general, because you know people will be mocking you.”

Upamecano, who is preparing to take on Erling Haaland when Thomas Tuchel’s Bayern visit Manchester City in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tomorrow, does not shy away from telling his story. The 24-year-old does not carry with him the pain of those challenging early moments. He was fortunate to be surrounded by a good support network. He has four sisters – two older, two younger – and they always had Upamecano’s back.

“They supported me,” he says. “Always telling me to talk despite my speech impediment, even if people were making fun. They told me that I would eventually see that the people who mocked me would be the ones applauding me. The most important thing was for me to talk. But it was hard. They weren’t in my situation as I was the only one with a stutter. In the end, though, I managed to take the advice that my family gave me.”

Upamecano, who grew up in Évreux, a commune in Normandy, stayed strong. He soon had help from a speech therapist but there were complications. The sessions stopped after the family moved home. “Then my parents divorced,” Upamecano says. “I started therapy again when I was 15.”

There was no psychological reason behind the stammer. “I think it was maybe because I would try and talk too fast.” And the problem faded. Playing football for his local side was the release for Upamecano. “The thing that helped me most was being on the pitch. As a defender I was obliged to speak. It was your role to see the game, to see all the players, so there was no choice. The coach made me captain. I was obliged to communicate with my teammates. I felt good on the pitch. No one made fun of me there. I didn’t stutter when I was playing.”

Upamecano, who counted the France and Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembélé as a childhood friend, stood out from the pack. He joined the Valenciennes academy in 2013 and stayed for two years before moving to RB Salzburg. The Austrian club had seen Upamecano’s strength, speed, reading of the game and ability on the ball. Yet the plaudits have never gone to his head. “I was a good boy. I worked from an early age, helping my mother at the market stall. She sold hair extensions for Afro hairstyles. I was 13. There were heavy boxes to carry and I helped setting up the stall.

“I also watched out for thieves. My mother was alone and I felt I had to protect her. I didn’t like the idea of her being in the cold and dark by herself. We started around 5.30 in the morning. I didn’t like staying in bed knowing my mother was out working. If I was late to help her, I would run. Sometimes I played on Sundays, so after the match I would run to help her.”



Upamecano was in France’s World Cup final team

Is Upamecano aware of how much pressure he was putting on himself? “It was natural. It didn’t even cross my mind. It was just important that I help my mother. Whenever she offered me money for helping I would say no. This has made me who I am. And my mum is proud of me. Today I’m the same – I’m always listening to any advice that’s given. I have a personal sports coach, a private chef – it helps me to improve. The most important thing is to remain in good shape. And to win trophies.”

Upamecano is starting to build his collection of medals. He progressed after joining Salzburg – “I was scared about moving abroad but my family said I would kill it” – and honed his game in Austria. “I learned to defend standing up. I’m not saying I don’t like or don’t know how to tackle. It’s just that if you can defend standing up it’s better in a duel. When you tackle you have to be sure. It’s a precise movement and it can be very dangerous. I try to stay on my feet.”

That smooth approach earned Upamecano a reputation as one of the best young defenders in the world after he joined RB Leipzig in 2017. He adapted to the Bundesliga, developing thanks to Julian Nagelsmann’s coaching, and was courted by several elite clubs.

Upamecano was hot property. He made his France debut in 2020 and, despite interest from the Premier League, joined Bayern in 2021. He won the Bundesliga in his debut campaign but this season has been harder. Borussia Dortmund have challenged at the top of the league and there was shock when Bayern sacked Nagelsmann last month.

In came Tuchel, and in his first game Bayern crushed Dortmund 4-2. The old authority returned. Upamecano, who is developing an understanding with Matthijs de Ligt in central defence, is ready to face Pep Guardiola’s City. “They have a great coach and a great team,” he says. “But we’re FC Bayern. We will do everything to beat them.”

Upamecano is respectful of Haaland but he will draw on stopping his France teammate Kylian Mbappé when Bayern beat Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16. Not that it was easy. Upamecano is not about to pretend that he can beat Mbappé for pace. “It’s much easier to have him in your team. You have to always be well balanced, ready to move in any direction; to be vigilant, watching his positioning on the pitch and his body language. He is the best player in the world – he is extraordinary.”

Upamecano had a good view of Mbappé taking the World Cup by storm. But the striker’s hat-trick in the final was not enough for France to defend their crown. Upamecano, who started alongside Raphaël Varane, remains rueful about losing against Argentina on penalties. “It was my first World Cup and it was unforgettable,” he says. “We were so close to winning.”

It was an incredible game. France looked dead and buried when 2-0 down at half-time but Didier Deschamps managed to motivate his players. “We knew we had played badly in the first half,” Upamecano says. “But the coach said: ‘It’s a World Cup final, you have to give everything.’ We decided to do everything to win.” Mbappé changed things. France fought back to 3-3. Upamecano, who made a huge block to deny Lautaro Martínez during extra time, thinks about the shootout. “A game of chance,” he says. “It hurts.”

But Upamecano is looking to the future. Varane and the captain Hugo Lloris have retired from international football. Deschamps has handed the armband to Mbappé, and Ibrahima Konaté has replaced Varane in defence. The mood is optimistic. Upamecano is one of the leaders of the next generation; he even scored when France opened qualifying for Euro 2024 by smashing the Netherlands 4-0.

“I hope we will get other opportunities,” he says. “My goal is to progress and I’m always listening to my coach. Everything is there to take. I try to speak more now on the pitch. If I have something to say, I’m going to say it.”

PGMOL admits penalty error in Brighton defeat by Spurs

Will Unwin

The PGMOL's chief refereeing officer, Howard Webb, has made contact with Brighton to apologise for the officials' failure to award the Seagulls a penalty in their 2-1 defeat by Tottenham.

Kaoru Mitoma was tripped in the box by Pierre-Emile Højbjerg but the referee, Stuart Attwell, failed to spot the infringement. The error was compounded by the video assistant referee (VAR), Michael Salisbury, failing to overturn Attwell's decision.

The incident happened with the score at 1-1 and Brighton were further punished when Harry Kane scored the winner for Spurs in a fiery game. Both head coaches, Cristian Stellini and Roberto De Zerbi, were sent off after several coaches were involved in a confrontation on the touchline.

De Zerbi was incensed after Brighton had a second goal ruled out. A potential Mitoma goal did not count in the first half after he was adjudged to have controlled the ball with his arm, while a Danny Welbeck goal was annulled after VAR decided it had been diverted in via Alexis Mac Allister's hand. Both decisions were marginal and tensions peaked to leave the head coaches heading for the stands.

Brighton had another appeal for a penalty rejected when Lewis Dunk went down in the box after having his shirt pulled. If Brighton had won the fixture, they would have closed the gap to Spurs in fifth to a solitary point.

It is the latest show of greater transparency from Webb and a further example of his efforts to engage in open communication with clubs since he started his role at the PGMOL.

De Zerbi did not want to be drawn into criticising the officials after the match but did say: "When I was in the dressing room, there is a clear penalty of Mitoma. You can't find one situation from my bench where I spoke to the referee to complain some decisions. I think I could say something because nothing for the penalty for Mitoma, nothing for the goal for Welbeck and I am sorry for this."

> ***'There is a clear penalty for Mitoma'***
>
> **Roberto De Zerbi**
> *Brighton head coach*



▲ *Roberto De Zerbi was sent off during Brighton's 2-1 defeat*



Guéhi goal sparks Palace comeback

Marc Guéhi finishes from close range past Illan Meslier to equalise for Crystal Palace
JASON CAIRNDUFF/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Hodgson's heroics continue as Palace stun leaky Leeds

Leeds 1
Bamford 21

Crystal Palace 5
Guéhi 45, Ayew 53 77, Eze 55, Édouard 69

	Leeds	Crystal Palace
Possession	47%	53%
Shots on target	7	7
Total attempts	11	16

Louise Taylor
Elland Road

Shortly before kick-off a tepid early afternoon sun finally pierced through the banks of grey cloud which had enveloped West Yorkshire since dawn.

It never became quite warm enough for Roy Hodgson to remove his padded, winter-issue, club anorak but well before the end Crystal Palace's interim manager bore the contented look of a man refreshed by a week on a tropical beach.

As the visiting fans chorused "We want six" and the excellent Eberechi Eze repeatedly danced around an increasingly shell-shocked Leeds defence, Hodgson looked as if he could not quite believe his luck.

After all, until Marc Guéhi equalised on the verge of half-time Leeds had missed successive chances with Palace's reserve goalkeeper, Sam Johnstone, almost single-handedly keeping his side in the game.

Everything was transformed beyond recognition after the break with a potentially damaging Leeds surrender leaving Javi Gracia's side 16th, only two points above the bottom three. In contrast Hodgson's suddenly upwardly mobile Palace rose to 12th, six points clear of the relegation zone.

It is now two wins secured and seven goals scored in two games since the 75-year-old emerged from retirement to replace Patrick Vieira at his old club and suddenly anything seems possible.

Gracia's realistic hopes of turning his own interim deal into a more permanent contract at Leeds this summer ultimately took quite a knock but his chameleon team began in a deceptively aggressive front-foot style.

The game had barely begun before a quartet of home chances came and went, with Johnstone, making his Premier League debut for Palace while deputising for the injured Vicente Guaita, saving smartly from Brenden Aaronson and Luis Sinisterra. Given that Patrick Bamford chipped a shot off target and Sinisterra headed another opening wide, Leeds were not so much on top as utterly omnipotent.

Bamford turned such dominance into material advantage in the 21st minute, after expertly losing his marker Tyrick Mitchell, connecting with Aaronson's out-swinging corner and defying Johnstone with a glancing header which grazed the inside of a post en route beyond the goalkeeper. The subsequent flurry of embraces between Bamford and Gracia's coaching staff reflected not merely the centre-forward's popularity but apparent delight at a much rehearsed training-ground routine evidently paying dividends.

The only trouble was that Gracia's rearguard were not so clever when it came to defending visiting dead balls. Sure enough they misread Michael Olise's excellent in-swinging corner and the unmarked Jeffrey Schlupp concluded Palace's first real attack by heading against a post.

Indeed the way in which Hodgson's side continued to menace at set-pieces was perhaps an early warning sign of trouble ahead for a Leeds side who, without further heroics from

How they stand

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
12	**Crystal Palace**	30	8	9	13	29	40	-11	**33**
13	**Wolves**	30	8	7	15	24	42	-18	**31**
14	**West Ham**	29	8	6	15	27	39	-12	**30**
15	**Bournemouth**	30	8	6	16	28	57	-29	**30**
16	**Leeds**	30	7	8	15	39	54	-15	**29**
17	**Everton**	30	6	9	15	23	43	-20	**27**
18	**N Forest**	30	6	9	15	24	54	-30	**27**
19	**Leicester**	30	7	4	19	40	52	-12	**25**
20	**Southampton**	30	6	5	19	24	51	-27	**23**





▼ *Eberechi Eze (right) celebrates with teammates after scoring Palace's third*
CARL RECINE/REUTERS



◀ *Jordan Ayew is congratulated by the Crystal Palace interim manager, Roy Hodgson, after scoring twice against Leeds before being substituted*
JASON CAIRNDUFF/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Johnstone in repelling Jack Harrison's free-kick and Pascal Struijk's header, would surely have been home and dry. With Johnstone buying his teammates time to level things up, Guéhi's equaliser, volleyed past Illan Meslier after Schlupp nudged on Eze's free-kick, proved an unexpected watershed.

Guéhi had spent most of the opening half struggling to second guess Bamford's movement but, after seeing his goal survive a VAR review for a potential offside, he started defending as if he were 10 feet tall.

Hodgson's team swiftly assumed the lead when Olise dodged Struijk before crossing superbly and allowing Jordan Ayew, who had outmanoeuvred Luke Ayling, to score with a header Meslier touched but could not hold. Ayew, deputising for the injured Wilfried Zaha, enjoyed a very good game, refusing to surrender during what must have been a morale-sapping opening 45 minutes.

Eze soon registered Palace's third, smoothly exchanging passes with Olise before sliding the ball beyond an on-rushing Meslier. It was suddenly extremely hard to comprehend how goalscoring had become such a problem for Palace in recent months.

Gracia responded with a triple substitution, introducing Rodrigo, Wilfried Gnonto and Rasmus Kristensen as he switched to 4-4-2.

No system change, though, could compensate for the collective loss of concentration now afflicting a heavy legged Leeds. Admittedly Hodgson's side were passing and moving with elegance and artistry but the home side seemed to have abandoned the idea of pressing and, damningly, no one tracked Eze in the preamble to his goal. Ayling, Gracia's right-back, and Marc Roca, a supposedly key central midfielder, proved weak links.

When a counter-attacking Olise ran at the Leeds defence with the ease of a long-haul aircraft cutting through cloud, Gracia's team folded completely. After Odsonne Édouard met the impressive Olise's ensuing pass, took a steadying touch and beat Meslier with a left-footed shot the ground began emptying.

It was left to those gluttons for punishment still inside Elland Road to boo Leeds off after Kristensen played Ayew onside and watched, helpless, as he scored Palace's fifth.

Leeds
4-2-3-1
Meslier; Ayling, Koch, Struijk, Firpo● (Kristensen 60); McKennie●, Roca; Harrison, Aaronson (Gnonto● 60), Sinisterra (Rodrigo 60); Bamford (Rutter 79)
Subs not used
Robles, Forshaw, Cooper, Summerville, Greenwood

Crystal Palace
4-1-4-1
Johnstone; Ward● (Clyne 87), Andersen, Guéhi, Mitchell; Doucouré (Milivojevic 80); Olise, Eze, Schlupp (McArthur 80), Ayew (Mateta 80); Édouard (Hughes 74)
Subs not used
Whitworth, Tomkins, Sambi Lokonga, Riedewald

Referee Simon Hooper **Attendance** 36,427

Saturday's talking points

A Villa 2-0 Nottm Forest

Aston Villa's remarkable progress under Unai Emery has perhaps got a little lost of late. Villa's latest victory was inevitably bookended by talk of Steve Cooper's future at Nottingham Forest. Villa, who were 16th and three points off the bottom of the table when Emery took charge in November, are eyeing Europe after soaring to sixth. "I remember the feeling of being seven points adrift with four games to go," the Villa captain, John McGinn, said of avoiding relegation on the final day of the 2019-20 season. "That was not a great view, so to be on the complete other side of it is amazing. It has been an amazing turnaround and hopefully we can keep it going." **Ben Fisher**

Brentford 1-2 Newcastle

Eddie Howe's pleasant striker conundrum grows increasingly confusing with each game. Having rotated Callum Wilson into the side for the midweek win at West Ham, he brought back the club-record signing, Alexander Isak, against Brentford. With Newcastle devoid of any spark, Howe then summoned Wilson off the bench at half-time in a rare instance of deploying them together. It worked. Wilson assisted Isak's goal and was unlucky to have his own struck off for a handball in the build-up. So what does the future hold up front for Newcastle? "They are two top-quality players," Howe said. "Can they play together every week? Probably not tactically, from our perspective. But can they play together in a game like today? Absolutely, yes." It is a great dilemma to have. **Ben Bloom**

Fulham 0-1 West Ham

West Ham have scored three goals in their past three games: two were from set-pieces and one was an own goal from Fulham's Harrison Reed. They



Alexander Isak celebrates scoring Newcastle's winner with his strike partner Callum Wilson



Jesse Marsch's talks to take over at Leicester are close to collapse

have also picked up six points along the way, nudging their way to 1-0 wins against Fulham and Southampton, but those games sandwiched a humiliation at the hands of Newcastle. In other words West Ham have enough to deal with the winnable games and falter against tougher sides. That should ensure they stay up but is it enough after spending around £160m last summer? Supporters clearly think not, given they booed David Moyes during the win against Fulham. There is a desire for more expansiveness and the feeling remains that Moyes's caution is holding the team back. Of course, he will argue that results are the most important thing in a relegation battle. The question is whether West Ham should ever have been in one. **Jacob Steinberg**

Leicester 0-1 Bournemouth

Leicester's move to make Jesse Marsch their manager is on the verge of collapse. The club had been confident of appointing the former Leeds head coach after talks reached an advanced stage but yesterday night agreement had not been secured on the final points of the negotiations. Among other coaches who have been under consideration are Ralph Hassenhüttl, Óscar García and Rafa Benítez. Leicester's performances reflect a squad that lacks vertebrae: the loss of Kasper Schmeichel, both as goalkeeper and leader, has been inadequately addressed; Jonny Evans and Jamie Vardy are well past their best; and Youri Tielemans is frequently injured. So, though James Maddison and Harvey Barnes have done their best to compensate, in such context what hope do they have? **Fabrizio Romano and Daniel Harris**

Man Utd 2-0 Everton

Anthony Martial staying fit until the end of the season would be a boost to rank alongside Christian Eriksen's return against Everton after a two-month layoff with an ankle problem, and Casemiro being available again for domestic football after a four-game ban. Suddenly, Erik ten Hag has three frontline players to bolster the remainder of the campaign. Eleven minutes after entering on Saturday Martial scored a seventh of the season in his 17th appearance, an impressive ratio considering his injury-disrupted year. With Marcus Rashford limping out of the game and the seriousness of his issue not yet known, the need for Martial to avoid another setback is further emphasised. **Jamie Jackson**

Southampton 1-4 Man City

Pep Guardiola's post-match beelines for selected opposition players are legendary. There was clear logic to his tête à tête with Roméo Lavia after the win at Southampton, though. City let the 19-year-old, who had spent two years at the Etihad Stadium, join Saints last summer along with three other youngsters: Guardiola had been tempted to keep him but did not want to deny him regular Premier League action. Judging by his public proclamations about Lavia, he may wish to exercise City's £40m buyback option sharpish. Lavia was the only home player who would have looked comfortable in the visitors' colours. Even if Saints stay up, he will surely be plying his trade elsewhere next season. A more regular discourse with Guardiola cannot be discounted. **Nick Ames**

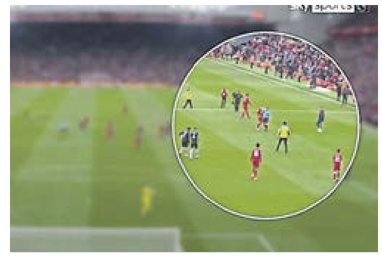
Tottenham 2-1 Brighton

There was no stadium VAR delay to check whether Kaoru Mitoma had been fouled by Pierre-Emile Højbjerg. Why did neither Stuart Attwell nor the VAR officials at Stockley Park see it as a penalty to Brighton? The incident became a lightning rod for Brighton fans to argue that officialdom, rather than failing to close down Harry Kane for Tottenham's winner, was the reason for defeat; sixth place might have become fifth. When Howard Webb apologised yesterday to Brighton on behalf of the PGMOL there was vindication but no extra points on offer. "The smart people can adapt different habits," said the Brighton manager, Roberto De Zerbi, when asked about being handed a red card for a second time. His excellent team are surely better off with a manager on the sidelines than not, as will be the case next week for the FA Cup semi-final with Manchester United. **John Brewin**

Wolves 1-0 Chelsea

Raheem Sterling has four goals and two assists this season in 21 matches. The winger struggled to find any form or consistency under Graham Potter but Frank Lampard's move to a 4-3-3 created a more obvious role on the right wing. Up against Toti he failed to produce any moments of danger, kept quiet by the makeshift left-back. Lampard needs to get the best out of such players as Sterling if he is to improve Chelsea. "I think he is a fantastic player, he's been one of the best wingers in the world for a long time," Lampard said. "At times, in some people's opinion, the best." Despite the ringing endorsement, Sterling has failed to hit the heights he found at Manchester City since his move to Stamford Bridge. A refresh in the dugout could help him. **Will Unwin**

Firmino fires up City hopes as Anfield haunts Arsenal again





▲ *Andy Robertson feels his jaw after appearing to be elbowed by assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis*

Liverpool 2
Salah 42, Firmino 87

Arsenal 2
Martinelli 8, Jesus 28

	Liverpool	Arsenal
Possession	59%	41%
Shots on target	6	5
Total attempts	21	9

Andy Hunter
Anfield

A post-match scene of Arsenal despair painted a pretty picture for Manchester City. Gabriel Magalhães sank to his knees on the final whistle, Oleksandr Zinchenko held his head in his hands and Mikel Arteta assumed the role of counsellor-in-chief to lift his players physically and emotionally. Anfield, the stage of Arsenal's greatest title moment, may have cost them dearly again.

In the 40th minute of a potentially defining game in the title race, Arsenal led Liverpool 2-0 and with such authority that an eight-point lead over City with eight games to play appeared a fair reflection of their precocious gifts. Then Granit Xhaka needlessly barged an arm into the back of Trent Alexander-Arnold and sparked a melee that ignited a previously forlorn home crowd. The elbow that the assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis threw at Andy Robertson will claim the headlines, but it was Xhaka's stupidity that shaped the rest of a frentic evening.

Mohamed Salah hauled Liverpool back into the contest seconds later with Arsenal's composure gone. Jürgen Klopp's side dominated the second half, Salah missing a penalty and Aaron Ramsdale performing heroics in the Arsenal goal before the substitute Roberto Firmino headed home an 87th-minute equaliser.

There was still time and opportunity for Liverpool to win it. Arsenal too. Salah volleyed over from close range and had a deflected, goalbound effort tipped away brilliantly by Ramsdale, who then denied Ibrahima Konaté on the goalline. Arsenal broke in numbers one final time but Gabriel Martinelli misplaced his pass to Bukayo Saka and the chance was gone. A comfortable advantage over City has gone, too. It is now six points clear with eight games to play, including one at the Etihad Stadium. The scene of Arsenal players on their knees and shaking their heads in disbelief after the final whistle was as justified as it was telling.

A period of silence to mark the 34th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster on 15 April was impeccably observed before kick-off. Arsenal made a bright start that became the perfect one when Saka made his first impression on the contest.

An early breakthrough commenced with a Ben White pass up to the England international. Robertson made the slightest slip as he attempted to close down Saka but it was enough to open a gap for the winger to exploit. An attempted one-two with Martin Ødegaard was intercepted by Virgil van Dijk, whose loose touch fell perfectly for Martinelli. Ignoring the presence of several Liverpool defenders as they closed in, the forward was coolness personified as he took one touch before rolling the ball beyond Alisson.

Arsenal spent much of the next 20 minutes presenting a convincing case to be considered champions-elect. They sliced through Liverpool's static midfield and confused

Top of the table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	30	23	4	3	72	29	+43	**73**
Man City	29	21	4	4	75	27	+48	**67**
Newcastle	29	15	11	3	48	21	+27	**56**
Man Utd	29	17	5	7	44	37	+7	**56**
Tottenham	30	16	5	9	55	42	+13	**53**
Aston Villa	30	14	5	11	41	40	+1	**47**

Ramsdale reaches in vain for header

Arsenal's goalkeeper was superb in the second half but could not stop Roberto Firmino's equaliser
PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS





10
Arsenal are ***winless in 10 league visits*** *to Anfield, drawing three and losing seven, while conceding at least twice in each match.*

2
After failing to score only two of his first 20 Premier League penalties, Mohamed Salah has since ***missed his past two****. The past two penalties in the league to miss the entire goal frame have been taken by the Egyptian.*

defence. There was an intelligence to Arsenal's distribution, drawing in the Liverpool press before clipping a ball into midfield or sweeping crossfield passes to the frequently unmarked Saka. Alisson denied Zinchenko at the end of one flowing move and Gabriel Jesus was unable to find the target when stretching to meet Saka's cross.

Arsenal doubled their lead with a goal that epitomised the swagger in their ranks and the uncertainty within Liverpool's. Arsenal worked a free-kick through the centre to Xhaka, who released Martinelli into a void where Alexander-Arnold should have been. The goalscorer turned creator, delivering a cross between Van Dijk and Robertson. Jesus rose on Easter Sunday to steer a header inside Alisson's left-hand post.

Liverpool were floundering but not out of it. They had joy whenever they pressed with aggression and organisation. They just did not do so often enough in the first half. The first time they shut down Arsenal's escape routes resulted in Robertson racing behind White on to Fabinho's pass. Robertson had to score. He dragged a low shot wide of the far post. Salah also had sight of goal when played through by Jordan Henderson. Again, a clear chance was pulled wide.

The Liverpool recovery started when Henderson turned Diogo Jota's cross from the byline across goal and Salah, via an attempted Gabriel clearance, converted his customary goal against Arsenal at the back post.

Liverpool were gifted a glorious opportunity to equalise when Rob Holding, who otherwise had a fine game, caught Jota inside the area while attempting to clear a corner. Salah opted for precision but placed his spot-kick wide. It was his second successive penalty miss.

Ramsdale denied Darwin Núñez, Gabriel headed straight at Alisson from a Saka corner and Liverpool finally broke Arsenal's resistance when Alexander-Arnold nutmegged Zinchenko before floating a perfect cross to the far post where Firmino converted an emphatic header.

Liverpool then squandered a host of gilt-edged chances in stoppage time. From 2-0 up to clinging on for a point, however, it felt a damaging day for Arteta's league leaders regardless.

Liverpool
4-3-3
Alisson; Alexander-Arnold, Konaté, Van Dijk, Robertson; Henderson, Fabinho (Firmino 78), Jones (Thiago 60); Salah, Gakpo, Jota (Núñez 60)
Subs not used
Kelleher, Gomez, Milner, Elliott, Tsimikas, Matip

Arsenal
4-2-3-1
Ramsdale; White, Holding, Gabriel, Zinchenko (Tierney 88); Partey, Xhaka; Saka, Ødegaard (Kiwior 80), Martinelli; Jesus (Trossard 80)
Subs not used
Turner, Fábio Vieira, Nelson, Jorginho, Smith Rowe, Walters

Referee Paul Tierney



◀ *Mohamed Salah pulls his shirt over his face after putting Liverpool's penalty wide of the post while Ben White watches on*
PETER POWELL/EPA



▼ *Gabriel Martinelli watches his shot beat Alisson's outstretched hand to give Arsenal an early lead*
PAUL GREENWOOD/SHUTTERSTOCK

Analysis
Barney Ronay



Under-the-radar Ramsdale pulls off dolphin flip and The Squid to limit damage in title push

When the season-crowning montages are spliced into shape a few weeks from now, and depending on how the story shakes down from here, it may be tempting to suggest Aaron Ramsdale saved Arsenal's league title challenge at Anfield.

In fairness, he seemed to save pretty much everything else on a wild, thrilling afternoon. This was a 2-2 draw that could end up being anything, points saved, points thrown away, corners turned, but which is perhaps best left to spin on its own axis, a self-contained event, elite sport pulled into stirring, ragged, angry shapes, all those patterns and plans and pre-set briefings played out through a mist of rage and ambient energy.

This wasn't just an incredible game of football. It was two incredible games of football crammed into a single running time. The first of these Arsenal won comfortably, romping into a 2-0 lead and looking like pedigree specimens, cosseted A-listers, a fully functioning machine. The second one they lost, or rather Liverpool won, and won fearsomely, producing a final 50 minutes of clarity, snap, swift passing and furious midfield press.

Arsenal met both versions of the current Liverpool here, the 7-0 home edition and the enfeebled away model. Arsenal were battered and jostled and marched around the place in a headlock, and should have lost this game. But whatever happens from here - and really, spectacle aside, it was a wonderful afternoon for Manchester City - this was still Ramsdale's day.

There were two startling saves in stoppage time at the end, with Arsenal by now taking huge lungfuls of air, brains frazzled, muscles flooded with lactic acid. The first was a leaping, full-stretch, dolphin flip past the post, the kind of save that might turn up in a textbook explainer of great footballing heroics. The second was less balletic but even better, a moment of high-spec playground scramble, Ramsdale showing extreme agility to dump himself down at his near post and wrench the ball back off the line as Ibrahima Konaté launched his chest at a cross and seemed certain to score the winning goal.

This was the pattern for the final extended act. Liverpool had 21 shots at goal. And Ramsdale just kept making saves, blocks, catches, clearances. It has perhaps gone under the radar what a fine season he has had, and what a supremely well-rounded goalkeeper he is. Ramsdale can pass and control the ball and add an extra player to the backline, in the modern style. He has a spectacular signature move one on one, what you might call The Squid, all splayed hands and legs, filling the space.

But he can also scrap and scramble and produce those bravura adrenal moments. There was the step inside and leaping claw-away as Mohamed Salah went for the far corner, an example of a keeper reading the play, knowing his man, watching the shift of feet.

There was the block from Darwin Núñez, who ran on to the perfect pass from Salah, looking smooth and elegantly composed as he glided away, then just seeming to enter a parallel world of flailing legs, parping klaxons, seasickness. The finish from Núñez was a doomed prod, but Ramsdale was already spread at his feet.

The opening quarter had suggested something very different. The first thing that happened in the game was Gabriel Martinelli not so much going past Trent Alexander-Arnold as walking straight through him. Soon after, Martinelli scored the opener, a goal made by a turn from Bukayo Saka so cute Andy Robertson fell over trying to follow him.

> *Arsenal met both versions of the current Liverpool: the 7-0 home edition and the enfeebled away model*

Goal number two came from the same route, Martinelli zooming down the left as Alexander-Arnold plodded back behind him in that familiar, by now almost iconic style, a man always running after some vanished version of the present. The cross was perfect, the header from Gabriel Jesus precise.

But the game changed before half-time, driven mainly by Alexander-Arnold's good qualities, as he stepped into midfield and began to unfurl those 30- to 40-yard passes, horrible searching malevolent things, always dipping and veering and fading into the right space.

Salah pulled a goal back. Anfield began to thunder and reel and barf its strange disconcerting energies across the pitch. And Alexander-Arnold made the difference deep into the second half, nutmegging Oleksandr Zinchenko and producing a lovely back-spun cross for Roberto Firmino to head the equaliser.

Either side of that Ramsdale had his moments, that rarest of times where a goalkeeper gets to lead from the front. But Arsenal's weak points were also on show here. First, the lack of real squad depth. Pep Guardiola seems to rotate his high-class centre-backs according to form, whims, opponents. Mikel Arteta has no real choice but to bring in Rob Holding, a game but limited blocker. Granit Xhaka has had a superb season, but he isn't quite a high-class controlling midfielder. There seemed to be no mechanism to stop this train, take the air out of it, to reassert control.

Arsenal showed other things here, heart and spirit and guts. Thanks to Ramsdale's brilliance the league title is still in their hands. With the proviso that it is also in City's hands; and that grip looks pretty unforgiving right now.



◀ *Liverpool had 21 shots at goal but the Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale just kept making saves, blocks, catches and clearances*
JON SUPER/AP

Rahm reigns
Cool Spaniard grabs Masters glory after Koepka fades

Page 34 →



On the rise
Record crowd at Leeds for women's rugby league kick-off

Page 36 →



The Guardian
Monday 10 April 2023

Sport



▼ *Aaron Ramsdale keeps out Ibrahima Konaté's effort in stoppage time to secure a point for Arsenal*
PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS

Liverpool	Arsenal
2	2
Salah 42 Firmino 87	Martinelli 8 Jesus 28

Arsenal's title slip
Linesman throws elbow at Robertson on day of drama

Andy Hunter
Anfield

The Football Association and PGMOL have launched investigations after an assistant referee threw an elbow at the Liverpool defender Andy Robertson during Arsenal's thrilling 2-2 draw at Anfield.

On a day of drama in the title race Arsenal squandered a two-goal lead to end six points clear of Manchester City, who have a game in hand and a home match against Mikel Arteta's side on 26 April. But the battle for top spot was not the only talking point.

Robertson said he was elbowed in the face by Constantine Hatzidakis when he approached the official after the end of the first half. Robertson, warned by the referee, Paul Tierney, for haranguing Hatzidakis earlier in the game, was booked for dissent after an incident that stunned Liverpool's players and coaching staff.

Liverpool's manager, Jürgen Klopp, declined to comment and said there had been no contact between his staff and the officials after the game. "I heard the pictures speak for themselves," Klopp said. "I cannot say more. I didn't see a bit of it."

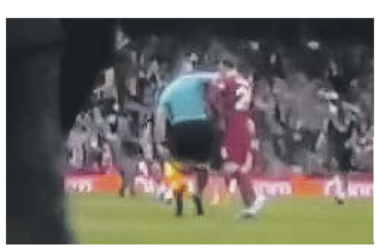
The FA and PGMOL, the professional referees' body, are investigating. "We will review the matter in full," the PGMOL said.

The same group of match officials were involved in controversy with Robertson and Liverpool last season, when the full-back was sent off and Harry Kane avoided a red card for a dangerous foul on the defender. Robertson could also be in trouble with the FA should it find that he grabbed Hatzidakis before the elbow.

In a pulsating game, Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus scored, only for Mohamed Salah to pull a goal back before half-time and miss a second-half penalty before Roberto Firmino levelled in the 87th minute. Arteta said: "When you concede at the end it always feels like two points dropped because you're suffering in certain moments but you have it [the victory]. The feeling is: 'We should have done it.' But, being fair, they had four big chances to score late on and missed a penalty. We have to look at ourselves in the mirror. We should have done better in the second half."

The Arsenal manager insisted his team would respond. "We've been responding for 31 games now," he said. "Every single day is a test."

Klopp described Liverpool's comeback as another positive step. "The question I had after the game was: 'How did we not win?'" he said.



SKY SPORTS

▲ *Andy Robertson and the assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis clash*

Match report *Page 40* →

'It's nice to be back': Hodgson savours Palace romp at Leeds

Louise Taylor
Elland Road

Roy Hodgson laughed off suggestions he possesses a magic wand after watching his Crystal Palace side deconstruct Leeds at Elland Road.

Palace's 5-1 win – secured after they fell a goal behind – lifts Hodgson's team to 12th, six points clear of the bottom three. The 75-year-old has presided over two wins in two games since emerging from retirement to return to Selhurst Park as interim replacement for the sacked Patrick Vieira. Palace had not won in 13 matches before Hodgson arrived.

"It's a perfect start, training's been fantastic, the sun's been shining and it's nice to be back," Hodgson said. "The players were good before I came back and now they're showing it again. I have to enjoy these moments as I know they won't last forever."

With the score level at half-time Hodgson demanded more aggression. "We had to weather a first-half storm. We were struggling and the players did well to drag themselves through. We were lucky to score before the break but that goal was worth its weight in gold. At half-time we had a talk, we agreed we needed more aggression, the players took our advice on board and the second half was very good. We've got quality, we're quick, strong and skilful."

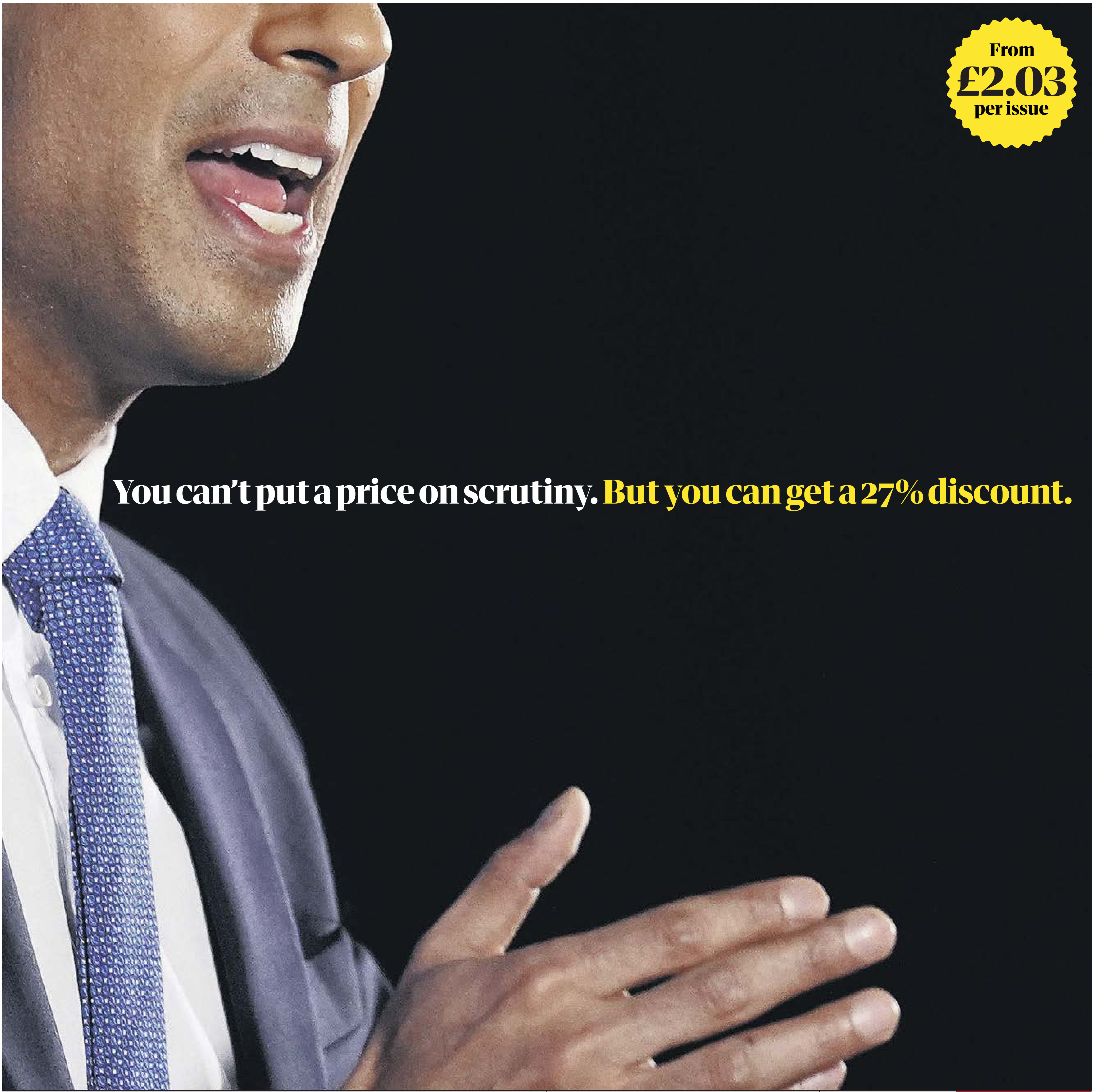
Hodgson had particularly warm words for Michael Olise after the 21-year-old midfielder created three goals in a stellar second-half display. Jordan Ayew and the goalkeeper, Sam Johnstone, with several early saves, were also singled out for praise.

The Leeds interim manager, Javi Gracia, suggested his "soft" players had paid the price for switching off. "It's very disappointing but we have to all learn from this from this hard moment," he said.

Match report *Page 38* →



Roy Hodgson has won his first two games in charge of Palace



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BLACK BAY CHRONO

Brexit's legacy still threatens the Belfast agreement *Peter Hain, page 3*
We cannot let childlessness divide women *Nicola Slawson, page 4*
Paul Cattermole, singer with pop band S Club 7 *Obituaries, page 6*

G2 Daily pullout life & arts section *Inside*

The Guardian Monday 10 April 2023

Journal

Opinion and ideas



ILLUSTRATION: NATHALIE LEES

This 'law and order' tribute act feels hollow and overblown

Nesrine Malik



We are squarely into the campaigning for May's local elections across England, and the dominant feeling is of being part of a bizarre exercise in which you are constantly offered things you have not asked for. The disconnect between what Labour and the Tories are campaigning on and people's real lives and needs - following an extended season of strikes and painful inflation - feels more pronounced than ever.

The Conservatives continue to bang on about small boats and transgender issues. It's dispiriting, but expected. But what about Labour? If you are sick with anxiety about the rising cost of your essentials, your ability to pay your bills, or a host of local concerns such as the closing of leisure facilities, declining town centres and public service infrastructure, most of what you have got so far from the official opposition is a blitz on restoring "law and order".

The pledge to make "Britain's streets safe", one of the party's five missions, has been amplified, but its details somehow remain both vague and oddly specific. Last month, it was laughing gas. The recreational use of nitrous oxide, the shadow culture secretary said, was a "blight on our communities", causing "littering", "disruption" and unspecified "antisocial behaviour challenges". In this, the Labour party was following the government's lead in supporting a ban, posturing on a minor matter despite what the experts - who caution against a ban - say. Cannabis also featured in a recent Keir Starmer speech, in which he spoke of it ruining lives in his constituency.

The tone of this "tough on crime" messaging is off - hyperbolic, disciplinarian and, as of last week, it stinks. On Friday, the party ran an ad on social media accusing Rishi Sunak, personally, of not thinking that adults convicted of sexually assaulting children should go to prison. It managed to draw condemnation from both the Tories and several Labour figures, for being tone deaf at best, or dog-whistling at worst, at a time when south Asians are accused of being culturally prone to grooming and child abuse.

Reports over the weekend suggest that members of the shadow cabinet, including the shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper, were not consulted about the ad. It's all symptomatic of a Labour leadership that, in its stated intention to appear muscular, is hitting all the

2

This 'law and order' tribute act feels hollow and overblown

Nesrine Malik

← Continued from front

wrong notes. There are real problems, real concerns about violent crime, but Labour's approach to them is often divorced from talking about the funding crisis that has engulfed our policing and legal systems – in favour of rhetorical shows of force. Spending on youth services in England and Wales was cut by 70% in less than a decade, while after only three years of austerity, 28% of organisations dealing with sexual and domestic abuse had had essential services cut. These cuts are sometimes name-checked by Labour as reasons things are in chaos, but instead of pledging to plug the holes the Tories have punched, the party offers vague soundbites about "modernisation", "raising standards" or proposing laws "with teeth".

The better defined pledges are to expand the police force and give it bigger mandates to deal with sexual assault. Considering how fresh the Casey review's findings are – which spoke of institutional bigotry in the Metropolitan police – this is not only not reading the room, but shouting over it.

The justice system in England and Wales is so underfunded that there are not enough judges, defence lawyers and prosecutors to process a huge backlog of cases. In some instances, cases are not being seen through because the physical state of courts is so poor. Labour says Sunak doesn't believe in locking up child abusers because "under the Tories, 4,500 adults convicted of sexually assaulting children under 16 served no prison time". Let's leave to one side blaming someone who's been prime minister for half a year for figures going back to 2010, and ask: what's actually happened to prosecutions?

For child sexual abuse, they fell by 45% in the second half of the last decade. Between 2010 and 2020, there was a 25% reduction in the Ministry of Justice's budget and cuts to victim support services. The result is an overburdened system where justice feels like a distant prospect. The same goes for adult sexual assault, where delays prompt distressed victims to drop cases altogether.

This is supposed to be easy territory for Starmer, who says he was profoundly shaped by his tenure as director of public prosecutions from 2008 to 2013. Law and order is both his comfort zone and his chance to give some clear outlines to a blurry self-image. "This is personal," Starmer has said.

That's nice for him, but is it wise? When it comes to talking tough on law and order, as with immigration, the Tories have no reservations about promising the most draconian measures. Chasing their lead only results in the sort of abject loss of principle that brings us tawdry attack ads, and in voters' minds may only reinforce the rightwing worldview on justice and crime the Tories excel in exploiting.

The second issue here is Labour's allergy to politics that violates two sacred principles: that government must be frugal, and that wrong 'uns have no one to blame but themselves. Since it has stopped presenting itself as an anti-austerity party, Labour can only really focus on crime as an issue of goodies and baddies, rather than a complex social problem that has been worsened by underinvestment in deprived communities. At the heart of going along with the "lock 'em up" mentality is the fear of being depicted as a party whose natural tendencies are to spend public money and coddle criminals.

And so, again, we skirt around the real solutions to this country's problems. The overall effect is to create in people's minds the image of Britain as a criminal dystopia, where people are unable to go out at night and youths huddle ominously in parks and public areas, getting high and menacing the public. That is a caricature. In the real world, people want to be safe but more urgently need job security, to earn enough money to eat and keep warm, and have places to gather and find some joy, relief and support in communion with others. Instead, they are offered more cops and crackdown. Because dignity is expensive, and fear is cheap.

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'Comment is free... but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Religion

In a secular society, it is black British Christians who are keeping the faith

Easter is the great Christian festival of hope and rebirth. But Britain's churches have few reasons to be cheerful about their own future. The 2021 census results, published in November, found that for the first time less than half the population identifies as Christian. Thousands of churches have closed their doors in recent years, some repurposed into art galleries or museums.

In the midst of decline, however, a religious success story is changing the shape and enriching the texture of British Christianity. To a remarkable degree, black majority churches (BMCs) are a countercultural growth industry in a country which is perhaps less secular than it believes itself to be. Research suggests that the rise in non-white church attendance in recent decades may more or less match the drop-off in white churchgoers. Though predominantly Pentecostal, BMCs also exist within the Anglican communion and other historic church traditions, the Baptist Union and Methodism. In London and Britain's other major cities, former bingo halls, warehouses and shops have been transformed into places of worship, channelling the evangelical intensity of African and Caribbean Christianity.

Starting here is now as good a place as any in giving an account of modern British religiosity. Seeded during the postwar waves of immigration from the Commonwealth, the BMCs were formed partly in response to hostility encountered in white Christian churches. As well as religious consolation, they offered a safe haven, advice and economic assistance to communities forced to contend with pervasive racism. These social functions continue: BMCs played a vital role, for example, in challenging the ruinous impact of payday loan companies on low-income households. But the cultural influence of black British Christianity extends far beyond that.

The England football team has showcased the faith of black footballers such as Bukayo Saka and Raheem Sterling, both raised in the Pentecostal church. During his 2019 appearance at Glastonbury, Stormzy introduced his Christian anthem Blinded By Your Grace by telling a largely white and presumably mostly secular crowd: "This is what it sounds like when Glastonbury meets God." The rapper namechecked the shadow foreign secretary, David Lammy, who has spoken of the faith he inherited from his Guyanese parents, and of their generation's struggle to find a welcome in the churches of the "motherland".

The higher profile is confirmation of the fascinatingly complex and changing layers of diversity that constitute modern Britain. A history forged in sometimes hostile circumstances has made churches such as the one attended by Saka a spiritual repository and beacon for communal values, along with a focus on individual self-esteem and self-betterment. Cosmopolitan London, where 48% of churchgoers are black, is also the most religious city in the country, with the most devout Christian population. Within the BMCs themselves, there are signs that generational change may come to challenge traditional thinking.

Discussing the significance of BMCs in this newspaper in 1979, Trevor Beeson, the radical Anglican theologian and future dean of Winchester, wrote: "In these African and West Indian churches lies the best hope of re-Christianising the British nation and in helping the weary churches of these islands to rediscover the true character of Christian faith and worship." The depth of secularisation in the country at large renders the idea of such a "reverse mission" implausible these days. But in bleak times for the established church, and a Eurocentric presumption that for religion the only way is down, black British Christians are writing a chapter of the national story which suggests that faith has a future.

Theatre

Vibrant performances are pulling in audiences despite the pain of cuts

Hayao Miyazaki's glorious animation My Neighbour Totoro reimagined for the stage; a Tennessee Williams classic with a red-hot star; a one-woman show by an Australian former lawyer, performed by Jodie Comer making her stage debut; the hip-hop suffragette musical Sylvia: British theatre is in a far livelier condition than seemed possible three years ago, when the first Covid lockdown began before Easter. A week ago, the industry's grandest prizes, the Oliviers, were presented amid high spirits and belted-out show tunes at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Last month saw pointed exchanges, in this newspaper and others, after David Hare, the playwright, wrote a piece lamenting the number of venues showing musicals. Others see nothing to regret in the huge number of seats being filled at the moment by theatregoers who want to hear melodies as well as dialogue – to watch dance routines as well as drama. Instead, they hope to channel this enthusiasm to make it easier to put new musical theatre works on stage – as well as old favourites like Oklahoma! and Guys and Dolls.

The recent closure of the Oldham Coliseum drew attention to the plight of the losers in the latest round of cuts by Arts Council England. The actor Christopher Eccleston voiced a heartfelt protest against the impact of growing socioeconomic inequality on would-be actors from poorer backgrounds growing up – as he did – hundreds of miles from the lights of London's West End. Another warning came from the actor Derek Jacobi, who is worried that sky-high prices risk pushing theatre tickets out of many people's reach.

But taking on board the grim funding environment and the uncertain future of theatre in Oldham, as well as of the English National Opera and a handful of smaller London theatres whose funding has been withdrawn, there are reasons to be cheerful about the state of British theatre. Beverley Knight, who plays the suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst in the musical Sylvia, is right to cheer the arrival of younger and more diverse audiences – and the new scripts and bold casting decisions that draw them in. While once it was Hollywood stars on West End stages that pulled in crowds, homegrown screen talent is now to the fore. Rose Ayling-Ellis, Jodie Comer and Nicola Walker were all popular television performers before taking up their recent highly praised stage roles. Ireland's Paul Mescal picked up the Olivier for best actor after being nominated for the same award at the Oscars.

There is no room for complacency. The Sheffield-set Standing at the Sky's Edge, which was first seen at the Crucible theatre in 2019, is among this season's hit transfers. But there is no denying London's dominance. As with other art forms, there is reason to worry that student fees and the high cost of living are deterring young people from poorer backgrounds who might once have found it easier to get a foothold in the industry. Scrutiny of ticket prices, including reductions for children and those on low incomes, must continue. These vary hugely between venues, and schemes should be supported by public funding and sponsorship. But the vibrancy of a sector that has succeeded in changing with the times deserves applause.



The then Irish taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, US Senator George Mitchell and former UK prime minister, Tony Blair, after signing the agreement on 10 April 1998
PHOTOGRAPH: DAN CHUNG

Brexit's legacy still threatens the Belfast agreement

Peter Hain



When those bitter blood enemies, Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness, finally agreed to share power amicably together in 2007, it was one of those "it'll never happen" moments. The 2007 agreement I helped negotiate under Tony Blair ended a five-year suspension of the Northern Ireland assembly.

So, too, was the 1998 Good Friday agreement, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, which sealed the end of the Troubles - those terrible decades of terror and horror, the most recent and tragic manifestation of generations of violent inter-communal division in Northern Ireland. The Good Friday agreement resolved what seemed to be intractable problems: the release of prisoners who'd committed atrocities; changes to the Irish constitution; establishing a completely new, inclusive self-government - even when the IRA had still not decommissioned its arms.

The key problems facing us in 2007 were the acceptance of devolved policing and the rule of law for Sinn Féin, and for the DUP, the acceptance of power sharing, impossibly difficult hurdles for those two largest parties with the peace process still in its infancy. Despite the challenges, the deal saw power sharing operate more or less stably until it collapsed in 2017, following the crisis over the renewable energy payments scandal. Stormont was suspended for three years before being uneasily restored.

Brexit provoked another collapse early last year, this time led by the DUP. It was objecting to a de facto border down the Irish Sea negotiated by Boris Johnson in his Brexit Northern Ireland protocol deal. A divide from the rest of the UK upset unionists, especially with Johnson pretending he hadn't even done it. Yet the people of Northern Ireland have bridged much greater divides at times when wounds were a lot more raw. Crucially, achieving agreement in 1998 and in 2007 required the UK government to stick to an "honest broker" role, and to work with international partners, especially the US and the EU.

Tragically - and at least until Rishi Sunak's Windsor framework removed the extremely rough edges of the protocol - that has not happened under the Tories since 2010, when David Cameron formed a general election alliance with the Ulster Unionists and Theresa May was later sustained in power by the DUP.

> **"The UK government's human rights agenda could recklessly inflict long-term damage on the Northern Ireland peace process**

Johnson and Liz Truss then destroyed any trust with Dublin, Brussels and Washington. Their "hard" Brexit redrew the jagged dividing lines in Northern Ireland that had been so elegantly smoothed by the Good Friday agreement and its successors. Questions around borders, identity, citizenship and self-determination became once more all-consuming issues for a society also facing massive crises in public services and the cost of living.

Despite Sunak being forced to drop the law-breaking NI protocol bill, his government has not resiled from other plans that would throw still more Brexit-shaped spanners into the engine of the peace process. If passed unamended, the retained EU law bill will automatically scrap thousands of safety standards, environmental protections and rights that parliament voted to implement while the UK was an EU member. This could unleash economic chaos in Britain, and have an even worse impact in Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK to share a land border with the EU and remain within its single market.

The government is also flirting with the idea of removing the UK from all or parts of the European convention on human rights (ECHR) in pursuit of its abhorrent Rwanda plan, shirking its obligations to the people of Northern Ireland. The Good Friday agreement is an international treaty, and the ECHR is directly referenced in its text, guaranteeing people in Northern Ireland protections under its terms.

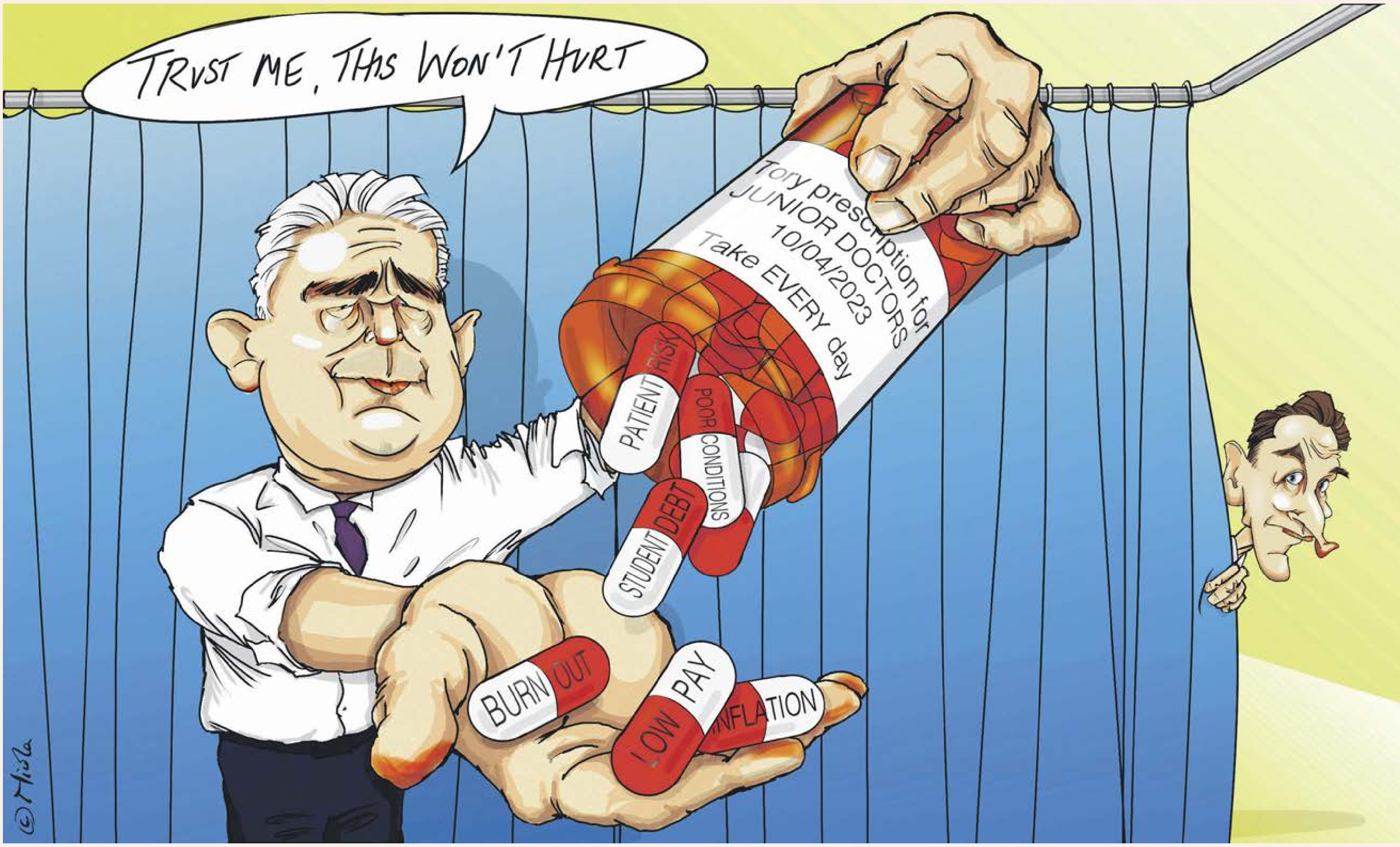
Any attempt to dilute the UK's adherence to the ECHR would probably breach it, while removing the UK from it completely would put us in a club with Belarus as the only European countries not signatory to it. This willingness to inflict long-term damage for dog-whistle, short-term political advantage is reckless, endangering the Good Friday peace process and making it more difficult to restore Stormont.

The government should be focused on removing the new Brexit-resurrected barriers inflaming old divisions, and by doing so help create a calmer context in which agreement can be reached. Much of the work has already been undertaken by my colleague Hilary Benn, who continues to gather evidence on the negative impact of Brexit and new trade deals.

The Good Friday agreement was a masterpiece of constructive ambiguity and pragmatic generosity, the result of intensive negotiations; and its offspring, the 2007 deal, brought together the two parties that were nowhere near agreeing to share power in 1998. Time is needed without further headwinds from the Brexit bunfight so that pragmatic adjustments can be made, people in Northern Ireland can get used to new arrangements and the temperature can come down.

As the durability of the Good Friday agreement in its 25th anniversary year faces perhaps its greatest challenge yet, it is high time the UK government prioritised Northern Ireland again, instead of risking it becoming a permanent Brexit casualty. The very least it deserves is another "it'll never happen" moments.

*
Peter Hain *was secretary of state for Northern Ireland from 2005 to 2007*



We cannot let childlessness divide women

Nicola Slawson



Standing in a circle of women waiting for an exercise class to start the other day, I found myself laughing and commiserating with them about the bugs their children kept catching at nursery, wondering when I was going to be caught out. I knew the question was coming, "Do you have children?", followed by the usual uncomfortable silence when I said no. I have always dreamed of being a mother. I am in my late 30s – past the scary age of 35 when a woman's fertility is meant to fall off a cliff. I'm also single. Every day I struggle to suppress the bubbling panic that I might never have children.

It has been mentally exhausting and often lonely, hovering between potential motherhood and ending up permanently childless. The experience has been made all the more fraught by what feels like a growing chasm between childless women and mothers. In recent years, it feels like both camps have developed a chronic lack of empathy for the other.

"One of the big issues of childlessness is that it can decimate your friendship group. When your friends and your family all move on to motherhood and leave you behind, it can be exquisitely painful," Jody Day, founder of Gateway Women – a support group for women who are childless not by choice – told the Worst Girl Gang Ever podcast. This echoes my own experience. Some friends with children have seemed unable to grasp the level of pain and fear I feel, dismissing what I'm saying by telling me I have "plenty of time", while in the same breath talking about friends going through IVF and how they "left it too late", or patronising me about how footloose and fancy-free they think my single life must be.

In Elizabeth Day's new book Friendaholic, she describes similar experiences with friends who just didn't get it as she went through IVF, and recurrent miscarriages. "I wouldn't post about my glorious babies on social media in much the same way as I wouldn't post about my expansive mansion or my fleet of Bentleys … because it's thoughtless to those who don't have these things," she wrote. Her comments triggered an outpouring of upset from mothers below an excerpt published in the Times.

I've noticed other examples of this seemingly uncrossable divide. On Instagram, an argument exploded over trigger warnings on Mother's Day posts. Some commenters thought those who couldn't have kids should "stop bleating on". One commenter even compared the experience of childlessness with not being able to afford a holiday in the Maldives. The lack of empathy and smugness was astounding to me.

Social media has of course played a role in entrenching these divisions. One in five women are childless at midlife, with about 90% of those in that position not by choice. Yet our timelines consistently favour examples of straight, cis (and often white) people hitting the "correct" milestones. Just look at the number of likes and comments on any post announcing an engagement, first home, marriage, pregnancy or baby's birth. Society has always celebrated heteronormative achievement, but social media has borderline fetishised it. Motherhood is still seen as the ultimate success – and lots of childless women feel this acutely, myself included.

At the same time, mothers often don't feel this way. My mum friends talk about the mental load of everything they have to do. Others whisper that they have completely lost themselves in motherhood; or speak of gruelling postnatal depression, or permanent physical damage after labour. Childcare has only just made it on to the political agenda. Discrimination against mothers still happens in the workplace. Perhaps because of all of this, when women such as Day speak up, some mothers feel personally attacked.

Writing about my own experience, I've realised there is a well of pain surrounding the question of motherhood; among childless women who want to become mothers; childfree women who face stigma; and even mothers, too. The real culprit is, of course, the patriarchy. There is nothing it loves more than women tearing each other down. We all experience the sheer exhaustion of being constantly judged and we all have to face the consequences of the choices we make – we need to be able to talk about it honestly. In the words of Dr Pragya Agarwal, author of (M)otherhood: "We need to normalise these conversations, outside our comfort zones. If we do not sit with our discomfort, we cannot change things."

*

Nicola Slawson *is a news, culture and social affairs journalist. She was a recipient of the Scott Trust bursary*

Letters

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Country diary

Little Barford, Bedfordshire

Bugles sang over much of Britain in the middle ages, filling the evening air and listeners' ears with mournful sounds of aching beauty. Bands of musicians gathered in diverse places whose names still reflect those assemblies: Cranbourne, Carnforth, Carnwich – the crane's stream, crane's ford, bog of the cranes. And here, where a Roman road sweeps up to one of the higher points of a low county, I stand on Crane Hill.

A visit to a familiar haunt 500 miles to the east last month has inspired me back to this spot. In faraway Lower Saxony, northern Germany, and through an open bedroom window, came the calls of the dusk buglers, a flock of cranes flying in the half-light to roost, their plaintive cries pitching and rolling in minor keys. So mellifluous are the tones of these aerial troubadours, far more varied than any lusty skein of geese.

Indeed, crane music is embedded in much north European composition; on my way here, I turned on the radio, only to be greeted by some Jean Sibelius. The Finnish composer also wrote Scene with Cranes. Two days before his death, he delighted in hearing again "the birds of my youth".

But here, today, no cranes call on this clay-capped plateau, no slender-necked birds stalk the thoroughly drained fields of growing wheat. The spinney, with its thrusting bluebell leaves and badger sett, refuses to mutate into squishy alder carr. My medieval predecessors must have walked over this ground with perennially wet feet. Yet only the name of Crane Hill is left today, a vestigial clue to the damp pasture and soggy scrubland that surely drew the flocks here.

My fellow country diarist Mark Cocker's indispensable Birds Britannica records the crane's calamitous decline in history, from King John feeding 100 paupers on cranes caught by his falcons on a hunting expedition, to Elizabeth I being offered just a single bird in a banquet laid out 30 miles from here as the crane flies. If they are to come back here, then wetness is key.

Derek Niemann

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Sanna Marin was felled by policy, not misogyny

As a Guardian reader and supporter and a follower of Finnish politics for more than 20 years, I was saddened to read Zoe Williams' misrepresentations of the Finnish parliamentary election result (Misogyny and Finland's Sanna Marin, 5 April).

Ms Marin was correct to celebrate the electoral process in her concession speech. It was an election campaign fought in a very civilised manner on issues (public spending, the environment and immigration), not personalities. The sharing on social media of some party moments may be fresh in British commentators' minds, but is already history for most people here. I heard no "party girl" references during the campaign.

The fact that seven of the nine parties returned to parliament (including the Finns party) are led by women was not really remarked upon, as people in Finland across the political spectrum judge their leaders on words and actions, not gender.

Finland generally alternates between left-of-centre and right-of-centre governments. That is a major reason for Ms Marin's Social Democratic party (SDP) not being the biggest party this time. If the SDP doesn't join this coalition, it will almost certainly join the government again in four years' time.

Many Finns are concerned about the speed with which government debt has been increasing. Williams describes the spending plans of the National Coalition party (NCP) as Cameroonian when, even if they were to implement all of them – something that is more or less impossible in Finnish coalition government, where everyone has to compromise – then education, welfare and health policy would still be far to the left of the British centre. Comparisons to the "alt-right" and 1930s fascism are very ill-advised and disappointing.
Paul Fairchild
Seinäjoki, Finland

● As a Finn, I was somewhat offended by your article, which suggested the Finnish prime minister lost the election due to misogyny. I would like to point out that the three candidates who received the most votes were all women: Riikka Purra, Sanna Marin and Elina Valtonen. Marin and her party lost the election because the majority of the people wanted to put an end to out-of-control government spending.

I do want to thank you for paying attention to the election in Finland. But it should be pointed out that women did quite well in it. The new prime minister will most likely be a man, but I would be quite surprised if we didn't see a female finance minister and a female foreign secretary.
Anna Homén
Espoo, Finland

● You have completely misrepresented the situation here in Finland. Sanna Marin actually won more seats in parliament now than in 2019. The main issue here was the economy, and particularly the national debt. Finns hate to be in debt, and the rightwing parties intend to address it by reducing government spending.

Sanna let herself down by making statements on foreign policy, which in Finland is the president's responsibility, most recently by offering F18 fighter jets to Ukraine. It was this that caused me to switch from her party to the NCP. Misogyny is not an issue in Finland; we don't even have separate words for he and she (*hän* is used for both).
Robin Bailey
Vantaa, Finland

How Labour can make clear it's for the many

Labour is failing to promote core Labour values such as equality and welfare (Editorial, 5 April) because it is still wedded to the "handbag economics" of neoliberals such as the late Nigel Lawson. The view of the state as like a household, constrained by a shortage of money, bears no relation to the public monetary largesse of 21st-century states. Since the 1990s deflation crisis in Japan, the financial crisis of 2007-08 and the pandemic, central banks in key economies have been in full flow. However, this has mainly supported the financial sector and the market generally, rather than public welfare.

To open up this new agenda, fundamental questions need to be asked about the creation and circulation of money in the 21st century. Why is publicly generated money (QE) used to bolster the (financial) market rather than public services? Why can banks borrow from the central bank, when governments have to borrow from private finance? Why is that government debt, when bought back by the central bank using publicly generated QE, not then cancelled?

If Labour is to win the next election (rather than the Tories losing it), it must open a debate about the issue of publicly generated money, and the role of the public economy in building the true wealth (wellth) of the people.
Prof Mary Mellor
Newcastle upon Tyne

● You say that Keir Starmer has had 12 slogans since becoming leader of the Labour party, "each one more meaningless than the last". May I suggest a very simple one that I really believe would strike a chord with voters: "Labour cares"?

I should like to think the party does care about tens of thousands of British children going hungry; about charities wondering how they can continue to provide vital services; about the burnout rate of teachers; about the huge problems in the NHS and in our broken social care system; about all those working people who have to depend on food banks; and about the climate crisis.

It's surely time that Sir Keir and others had the courage to speak out – and show us that there is a party worthy of our votes.
Joy Webb
Penistone, South Yorkshire

It's again time to tackle reckless water firms

At the launch of her department's cleaner water plan (Coffey accused of 'throwing in the towel' over tackling sewage scandal, 5 April), the environment minister, Thérèse Coffey, suggested that to overcome the water pollution crisis we would have to return to the "natural state of our rivers from the year 1840".

This is ironic, as it was then that the limits of privatised water services were becoming increasingly clear. Rather than being in some kind of "natural state", British rivers were being polluted on an industrial scale in the early 19th century, and private water companies were one of the main culprits, especially in London.

Like today, water companies behaved recklessly, paying out big dividends to investors rather than investing in infrastructure, and the consequences were devastating. In the capital, a series of cholera epidemics and increasing water activism eventually resulted in water services being brought under public control.

The current crisis demands a similar response. But the government remains wedded to privatisation and Labour is too timid to argue for nationalisation. We will all pay a heavy price for this, as water companies continue to pollute our rivers and place private profit over the public good.
Dr Geoff Goodwin
London

Corrections and clarifications

● **An image of a fox making its way across the RSPB's Cliffe Pools nature reserve on the Hoo peninsula was captioned with a comment that the scene was "Like an Essex Serengeti". The reserve is in Kent (Eyewitness, 7 April, p22).**

● **The front page of the paper's 4 April edition heralded that an article about Carol Vorderman could be found in G2. In fact it was in the Journal, on page 4.**

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An AI-free idea for the departing Tories

I wonder if there is someone in a back office in Smith Square using a chatbot to generate a post-election note along the lines of Liam Byrne's "there is no money [left]". (AI will remodel our economy – but who will take the spoils?, 8 April). Without the benefit of any technological aid, I suggest: "Everything is broken. You could try switching it off and on again, but it probably won't work."
Ruth Eversley
Paulton, Somerset

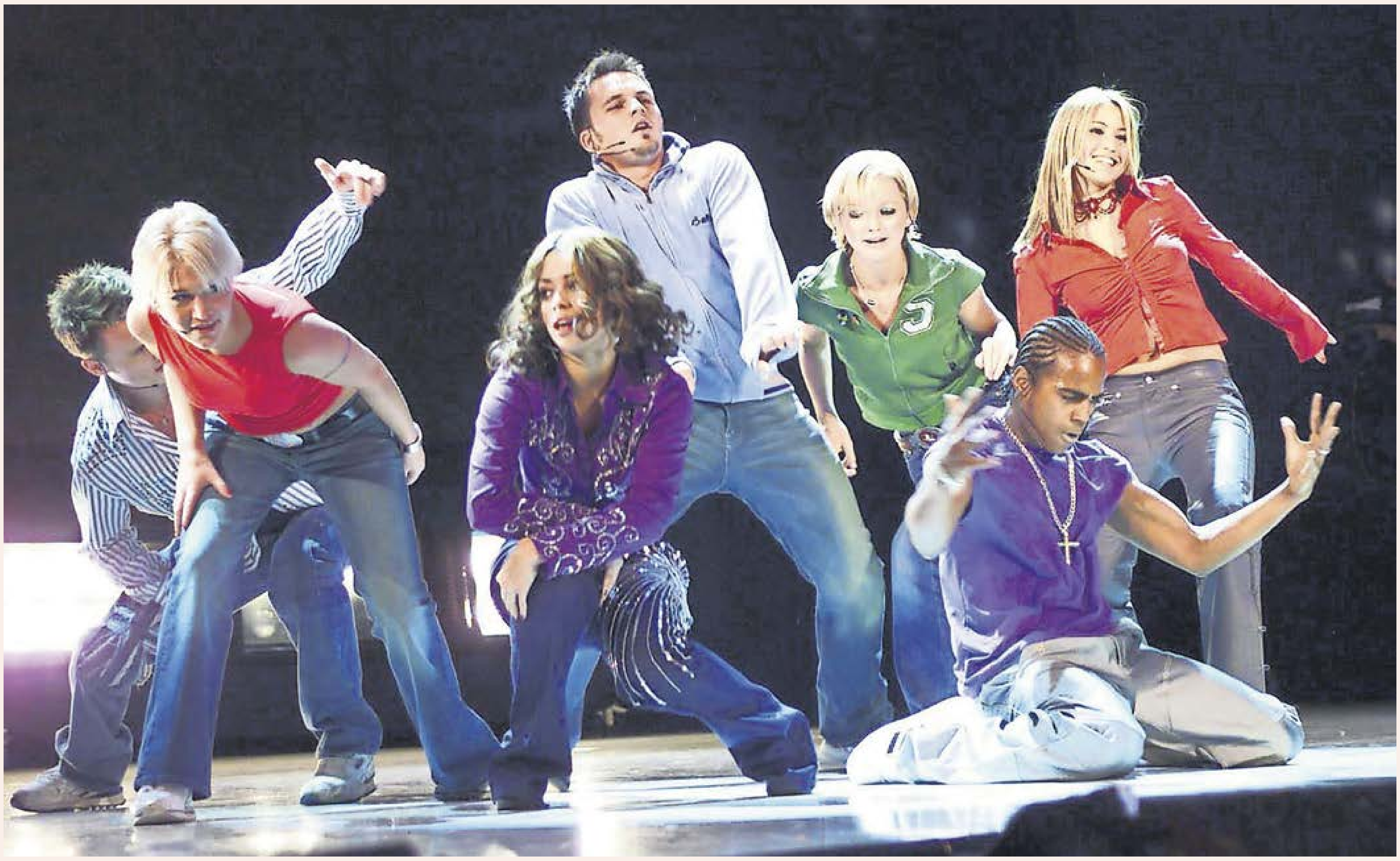
● I agree that the hash brown is the grey squirrel of the breakfast world (Letters, 8 April). The same goes for the American cupcake replacing the British fairy cake and Italian tiramisu replacing the trifle.
Elizabeth Williams
Penylan, Cardiff

● History remembers "the Year of the Three Emperors" as a low point in the decline and fall of the Roman empire. Will "the Year of the Three Stooges" be similarly remembered in Britain's decline?
Peter Fellows
Bradford

● Credit where it is due: Rishi Sunak promised to "stop the boats" only a few weeks ago, and one look at Dover over Easter shows that he has delivered on that promise.
Eric Goodyer
Birsay, Orkney

● My 33-year embargo on Duchy Originals and Duchy Organic products is now even more justified (Royals took £1.2bn in private income from estates, 6 April).
Sam White
Lewes, East Sussex

● I guess no one at the Guardian is expecting to see their name in the coronation honours list? Keep up the good work.
Marlene Godfrey
Beverley, East Yorkshire



Paul Cattermole

Singer with S Club 7, the pop band that enjoyed massive chart success in the early 2000s

Paul Cattermole, who has died aged 46, was part of the chart-topping pop band S Club 7 from its formation in 1998 until he quit in 2002, making his last appearance with them at the Queen's Golden Jubilee concert that June. His departure from the septet prompted them to be renamed S Club.

The group had become one of the most successful acts of their era, notching up 11 Top 5 singles in the UK and scoring a US Top 10 hit with the lachrymose ballad Never Had a Dream Come True. Their debut single, Bring It All Back, strongly reminiscent of the Jackson 5, was the first of their four UK chart-toppers. Their debut album, S Club, reached No 2, the follow-up, 7 (2000), reached No 1, and the third, Sunshine (2001), went to No 3. The first three albums all achieved multi-platinum sales, though sales fell away for Seeing Double, which did not feature Cattermole. The group won best British breakthrough act at the Brit awards in 2000, and the best British single trophy in 2002 for Don't Stop Movin'.

S Club 7 was the brainchild of Simon Fuller, the erstwhile svengali behind the Spice Girls; he claimed that the concept came to him the day after the Spice Girls sacked him in November 1997. The following year Fuller's new project attracted more than 10,000 applicants, and Cattermole was one of those invited to audition.

The group members were initially chosen to star in a TV series, Miami 7 (written by Fuller's brother Kim), which aired on CBBC from April to July 1999. They played fictional versions of themselves, in a pop group offered a chance by their management to hit the big time in Miami. They would sing one of the songs from their debut album at the end of each episode.

Cattermole, centre in light blue shirt, performing with S Club 7 in 2001. Below right, appearing on the ITV show Loose Women in 2018

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES; KEN MCKAY/ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK

Renamed S Club 7 in Miami, the TV show was subsequently broadcast on the Fox Family channel in the US. "It was great travelling to the States but all of the indoor shots were actually filmed back in England," Cattermole said. In 2000, S Club 7 starred in a follow-up TV series, LA7, and S Club 7 Go Wild! found them travelling the world to raise awareness of endangered animal species.

Cattermole was born in St Albans, Hertfordshire, the son of Liz and Gerald. He described how "my great-grandfather was the managing director of Abbey Road studios, my grandfather was a nanoelectronic particle physicist. I'm one of those strange people who liked physics at school."

He attended the National Youth Music Theatre, and among his contemporaries were Sheridan Smith, who became a close friend, and his future S Club 7 bandmate (and romantic partner) Hannah Spearritt. He appeared with Spearritt in the NYMT's production of Pendragon, a stage musical about King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table. This toured in New York, the far east and Edinburgh. He subsequently trained at Mountview Theatre School in south London.



If you're making 20-year-old kids work every day of the week, you've gotta make sure they're paid well

His departure from S Club 7 in 2002 reflected a tension between the band and their management, with the group wanting to explore more cutting-edge sounds. Before joining S Club 7, Cattermole had been in a heavy metal band called Skua, which better reflected his personal tastes than S Club's breezy bubblegum stylings. He rejoined Skua after quitting S Club, but his huge pop profile made it difficult for him to be taken seriously as a rocker.

S Club split up in 2003. In 2008, Cattermole joined his former bandmates Jo O'Meara and Bradley McIntosh to play gigs as S Club 3, but subsequently found himself being edged out by another S Clubber, Tina Barrett.

In 2014 the band reunited to perform a medley of their hits for a BBC Children in Need telethon, and in May the following year played a string of arena dates dubbed the Bring It All Back 2015 tour. Later that year, Cattermole toured in a production of Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show, taking the role of Eddie, but had to drop out after suffering a back injury.

His financial situation became precarious, not least because it transpired that it was Fuller rather than the S Club 7 members who had been signed to the Polydor record label. The band were "affiliates", not the multimillionaires the public often imagined them to be. "It's not a fair way of doing things," Cattermole commented. "If you're making 20-year-old kids work every single day of the week, you've gotta make sure they're paid well."

He found himself facing a large tax bill. As he explained on the Loose Women TV show, "all the money from that tour went to pay that bill off, and I had to do the next job that came in because it's showbiz". In 2018 he was forced to raise cash by auctioning his Brit awards ("grab yourself a bargain!" he urged bidders on eBay).

He described how he had tried to boost his earnings by going on I'm a Celebrity … Get Me Out of Here! or Dancing on Ice. "I have asked them many times and they won't have me. I'm not famous enough."

He even tried his hand as an online tarot card reader and spirit coach, charging £39.95 per 20-minute session. Yet despite his problems, Cattermole always seemed good-natured and philosophical.

In February this year the S Club 7 members announced they would be reuniting for a 25th anniversary tour in October, culminating in a show at the O2 Arena in London. A huge rush for tickets prompted them to add several extra dates.

Adam Sweeting

Paul Gerald Cattermole, pop singer, born 7 March 1977; died 6 April 2023

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John Thompson

Chair of the Academy of Urbanism determined to involve local people in architectural decisions

The urban planner and architect John Thompson, who has died aged 78 after a long illness, was a leading proponent of "community architecture" and the founding chairman of the Academy of Urbanism. He was one of the most prominent advocates of involving local people in architectural decisions about their neighbourhoods and estates.

One of his best known ventures, which would have a lasting effect on the design of estates in Britain, was for Hackney council, at Lea View House in east London in 1983. At the time, the estate had high levels of crime and antisocial behaviour and John decided to open a project office in an empty flat on the site so that local residents could participate in the plans for their homes.

Families living up many flights of stairs told them of access difficulties, so the architects suggested moving families to newly created maisonettes at ground-floor level, each with their own front door, which in turn altered ways of entering the block.

Tenants were now able to customise the layout of their flats, and sheltered housing, a community hall and play areas were introduced.



Thompson believed that to feel embedded in a community was an essential part of life JTP

Charles Knevitt, architecture correspondent of the Times, wrote that "pride, dignity, and self-respect have been restored at Lea View and community architecture was the process by which it came about". Crime rates fell, a residents' association was set up and the estate became a byword at architectural conferences for involving people in planning decisions.

Born in Leamington Spa, the son of John Thompson, a sales executive, and Edna (nee Hawkes), John spent much of his childhood in Henley-in-Arden in Warwickshire, where his maternal grandfather had a butcher's shop. Later in life he would refer to his happy childhood experience of small-town life as an example of what planners and architects should aspire to and his belief that to feel embedded in a community was an essential part of life. After attending Arden House and Oundle schools, he studied architecture at Magdalene College, Cambridge, graduating in 1969.

In the same year, with his colleague Bernard Hunt, he set up the firm Hunt Thompson, in Camden, north London. Initially their work was mainly to do with public housing and then the refurbishment of some of London's best-known pubs. The latter assignments came about partly due to a misunderstanding: the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) believed it had been asked to recommend a firm experienced in public housing.

After attending a conference entitled Remaking Cities, organised by the American Institute of Architecture, in Pittsburgh in 1988, John became further committed to involving local people in architectural decisions that would affect them. A keynote speaker at the conference was the then Prince of Wales (King Charles), with whom John later worked on many urban renewal projects throughout the UK.

In 1986 he became a founder trustee of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture (now the Prince's Foundation). Eight years later he launched a new practice, John Thompson and Partners (JTP), which he chaired until his retirement in 2017.

John's skill in establishing links between local communities and architects led to many international commissions, including projects in Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Iceland, Sweden and Ireland. Towards the end of his career, he was involved in two major assignments in China, in Hangzhou and Zhoushan, both of which attracted a perhaps surprising level of community involvement.

A charismatic and genial figure, he was never short of work. In 1998, the JTP practice took part in the Caterham Barracks community planning weekend, attended by around a thousand people, as it began its work with a local developer on what became the regeneration of the 100-year-old former military facility in Surrey to provide public amenities as well as housing for the local community. The work won a series of building and planning awards.

Between 2001 and 2011 he was a member of Yorkshire Forward's urban renaissance panel, working on plans for the revival of Scarborough, which had seen its tourism and fishing industries decline. Another planning weekend, which had become a feature of his work, was also very well attended by people with their own suggestions as to what needed to be done. Projects ranging from a regeneration of the harbour to the creation of art and culture festivals emerged.

In 2003, John was asked by George Ferguson, the then president of RIBA, to chair their planning group, which eventually led to the establishment of the Academy of Urbanism (AoU), an independent, cross-sector organisation that aims to "bring together both the current and next generation of urban leaders, thinkers and practitioners".

It now has 600 members, an 18-point manifesto, an annual awards scheme and a scheme for "young urbanists".

In 2017 John was diagnosed with multiple system atrophy (MSA), which eventually left him bed-ridden at his home in Hammersmith, west London, where he was looked after by his second wife, Nova (nee Galer), whom he married in 2005, and a team of carers. Remarkably stoic, he took consolation in watching on television the renaissance of the England cricket team – he was himself a keen cricketer with Turville Park cricket club in the Chilterns.

A book of his work, entitled John Thompson: Creating Great Places, was assembled by colleagues and published in 2019. In it, he was celebrated in verse by the poet Ian McMillan, a friend whose poem A Plan for John Thompson contains the lines: "Space is what he thinks about / Space and how to use it / Urban space or rural space we break it or abuse it."

He is survived by Nova, and his two children, Wally and Grace, from his first marriage to Rosie Light, which ended in divorce; by three stepchildren, Jessica, Tom and Tibbs, his grandchildren, Elliot, Scarlett, Phoenix, Mattie and Jack, and his brother, Peter.

Duncan Campbell

John Richard Thompson, architect and planner, born 7 February 1944; died 29 December 2022

"Tenants were now able to customise the layout of their flats and play areas were introduced



In 1998, the JTP practice took part in a community planning weekend, attended by around 1,000 people, as it began its work with a local developer on Caterham barracks, Surrey JTP

Birthdays

Lorraine Ashbourne, actor, 62; **Prof Allan Buckwell**, agricultural economist, 76; **Ed Byrne**, comedian, 51; **Nicky Campbell**, broadcaster, 62; **Roberto Carlos**, footballer, 50; **Sir William Castell**, former chair, Wellcome Trust, 76; **Sophie Ellis-Bextor**, singer and songwriter, 44; **Lesley Garrett**, soprano, 68; **Prof Carole Goble**, professor of computer science, Manchester University, 62; **Rosemary Hill**, writer and biographer, 66; **Gloria Hunniford**, broadcaster, 83; **Peter MacNicol**, actor, 69; **David Moorcroft**, athlete, former chief executive, UK Athletics, 70; **Peter Morgan**, screenwriter, 60; **Q-Tip**, rapper and music producer, 53; **Daisy Ridley**, actor, 31; **Dame Prof Carol Robinson**, chemist and former president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, 67; **Steven Seagal**, actor, 71; **Brian Setzer**, guitarist and band leader, 64; **Prof Gerald Stimson**, public health sociologist, 78.

Puzzles

Saturday's solutions

Sandwich sudoku

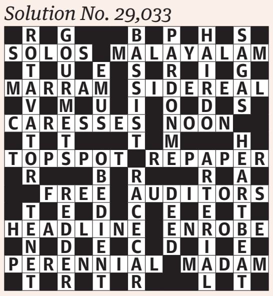
4	7	5	9	1	2	8	6	3	0
6	8	9	4	3	7	1	2	5	14
3	2	1	8	6	5	9	4	7	19
2	5	6	3	4	1	7	9	8	7
7	1	3	2	9	8	4	5	6	5
8	9	4	5	7	6	3	1	2	25
9	4	7	6	5	3	2	8	1	35
5	3	2	1	8	9	6	7	4	8
1	6	8	7	2	4	5	3	9	35
5	0	0	28	13	17	0	5	4	

Killer Sudoku 860

6	5	1	9	8	3	4	2	7
8	9	3	4	2	7	5	6	1
7	2	4	1	5	6	3	9	8
4	8	5	2	9	1	6	7	3
1	3	9	7	6	4	2	8	5
2	7	6	8	3	5	9	1	4
3	6	8	5	1	9	7	4	2
9	1	7	3	4	2	8	5	6
5	4	2	6	7	8	1	3	9

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 29,033



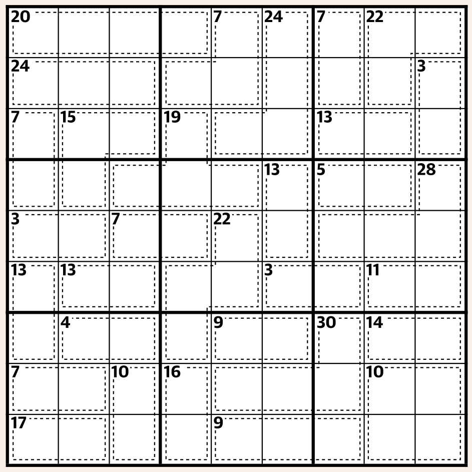
This week's winners of The Language Lover's Puzzle Book are:
Terry O'Gorman, Wirral;
J Smart, Macclesfield
Marley Young, Hoole
Helen Reid, Oxford
Rose Meech, Great Kingshill.

Please allow 28 days for delivery

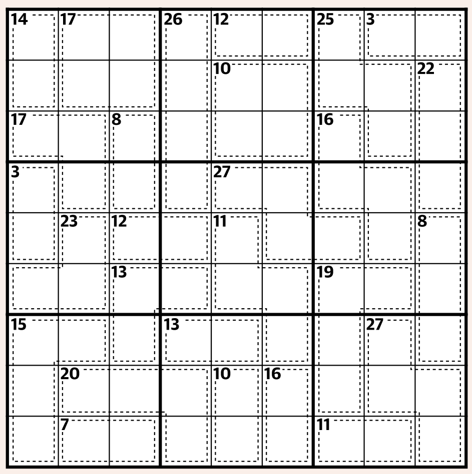
Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

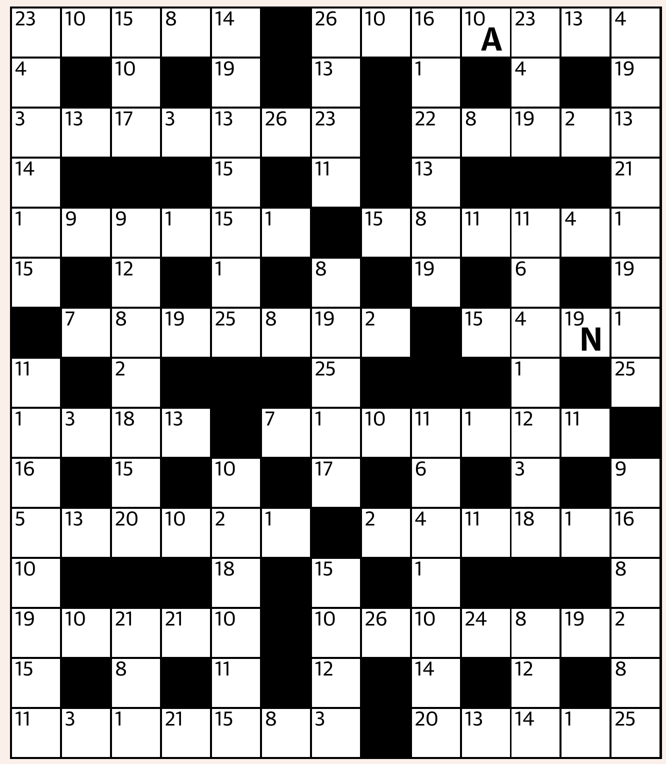


Medium



Codeword

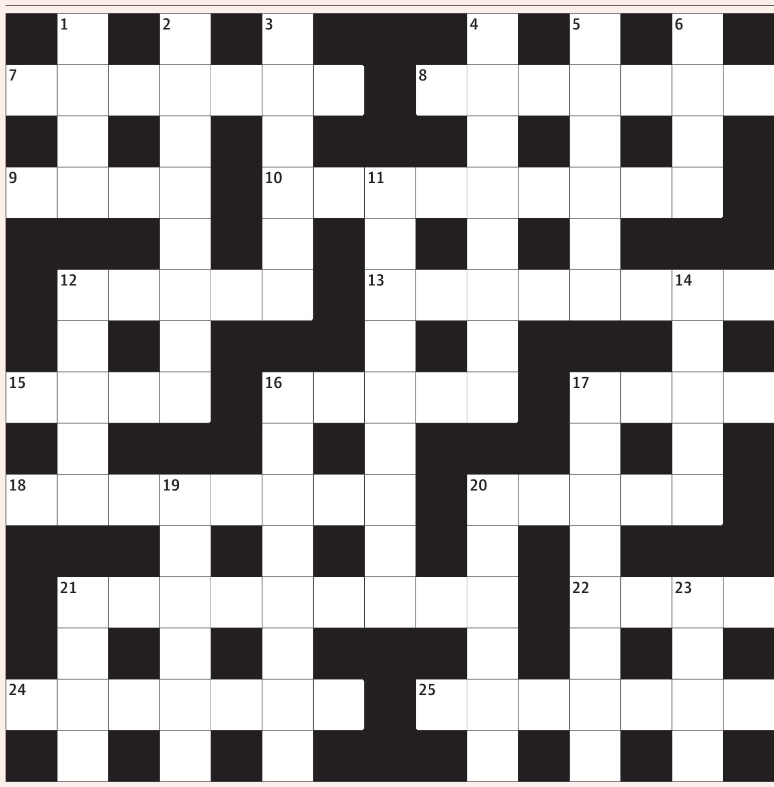
Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.



A̸ B C D E F G H I J K L M N̸ O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 A	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 N	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Guardian cryptic crossword No 29,040 set by Vulcan



Across

7 Opening letter, I nail it up the wall (7)
8 Caretaker to retire initially after New Year (7)
9 A little fox engages much bigger animals (4)
10 A part of speech? (9)
12 Squad heartily taking two females for drink (5)
13 Currently a bit uncomfortable? (8)
15 Boy holding end of the leash (4)
16 Thorny plant becomes coated, they say (5)
17 Team triumphed (4)
18 Moving here soon, such a tiny town (3-5)
20 Colourful sort of light in West (5)
21 Do press on, struggling in such a walk? (9)
22 An office may have this property (4)
24 Hippie: bet on one losing head (3,4)
25 Pirouette on the cricket field? (3,4)

Down

1 Stone working with axes (4)
2 Bear away flag (8)
3 Service provided in mountain region (6)
4 Poisonous plant made nark convulsive (8)
5 Making music, really hot (6)
6 In Paris I receive fine for facetious remark (4)
11 Not use these clothes enough? (9)
12 Powerful piece from rock band (5)
14 London police, endless subject (5)
16 Description of desert? Wrong (8)
17 Stupid? Not this crossword (8)
19 Well done, Henry! (6)
20 Dye plant marks snake (6)
21 Bring up small seat (4)
23 Ignore the captain (4)

Stuck? For help call **0906 200 83 83**. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call **0330 333 6946** for customer service (charged at standard rate). **Want more?** Get access to more than 4,000 puzzles at **theguardian.com/crossword**. To buy puzzle books, visit **guardianbookshop.com** or call **0330 333 6846**.*



“While MPs were snogging and drinking champagne, I was outside a care home waving at my mum

Ruthie Henshall fights back

G2

The Guardian

Monday 10/04/23

Life & Arts

The problem with Picasso

Can an awful person make awesome art?

page 8



★★★★★

‘ITV’s Why Didn’t They Ask Evans? is a joy!’

page 10

A new start after 60



Rosemary Griggs as Lady Katherine Champernowne

I retired – and began dressing as a Tudor noblewoman

Rosemary Griggs has had two retirements, she says. Her first adventure, after retiring from the civil service at 55, was when she and husband David "did the sort of thing you would never advise your kids to do": they bought a wooden house on stilts on 20 acres of rainforest in Belize. They also travelled extensively around Central America. But when David experienced a period of poor health, Griggs says: "That globetrotting came to an end." Her "second retirement" has involved a very different kind of adventuring – through history – and in the guise of a Tudor noblewoman.

Back home in Devon, Griggs says: "It soon became clear that tending my allotment would not be enough." She started volunteering at nearby Compton Castle, and was invited to get involved with making a Tudor costume. Despite not having done any dressmaking since school, she agreed.

Her initial attempts to create a 16th-century costume were, she says, "not particularly historically accurate" and she was unhappy with the result. "I started to do a bit more digging." That, however, is something of an understatement: she followed an online course on the history of royal fashion and read extensively. She also ventured into social media, discovering a supportive community of people with expertise in reproducing historical clothing. "My son said: 'Mum, you've got to be a bit careful – are you sure you want to do this?' But I have to say it's been brilliant." Griggs now shares her discoveries and creations on her own website.

Griggs became fascinated with one 16th-century woman in particular who was connected to Compton Castle: Lady Katherine Champernowne, the mother of the explorers and colonisers Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert. "She's a remarkable woman, mother of eight, possibly nine children; she married twice, and children from both marriages did quite extraordinary things. I thought she deserved to have her story told."

In parallel with researching Katherine's life, Griggs started talking to castle visitors while dressed in period costume. Then she began to wonder if it would be possible to create something more immersive. "I thought maybe I could bring this woman to life a bit." Her performances as Lady Katherine have taken her all over the West Country performing for history societies, WI groups and children.

Now 71, Griggs performed 38 shows in 2022, and she's planning more in 2023, often accompanied by "peasant David". Her husband, whose health has improved, is a keen folk singer who sometimes contributes Elizabethan songs to the shows, and is on hand for lady's maid duties, helping Griggs into and out of her regalia. "He's OK enough to be a peasant!" laughs Griggs.

"We do tend to travel to events with me fully dressed," she says, remembering "hopeless" attempts to change in tiny toilets. "He drives us all over the West Country and I'm sitting there as the Lady, waving to everyone. I did turn up to vote in full costume a few years ago – we were on our way somewhere; that caused a bit of a stir." The rest of her family, she says are "surprised, amazed, worried because some of them think I'm overdoing it, but delighted I'm doing something that's rewarding".

Griggs's deep immersion in the period and the person led her to write a novel dramatising Lady Katherine's life. A Woman of Noble Wit was published in 2021. It felt important, she says, to shine more light on an exceptional woman overshadowed by her famous male relations. She's now working on a second book, about a lesser-known woman in the same extended family.

Creating and wearing authentic costumes of the era is a vital part of the research, she says, recalling Hilary Mantel's comment that to write historical fiction you need to live in your character's world. "It's being able to walk in their shoes and feel what it was like. You might write about someone running up a spiral staircase – but if you're dressed like that, it's really quite difficult!"

Emma Beddington

Tell us: has your life taken a new direction after the age of 60? Fill in the online form at theguardian.com/new-start-after-60

COVER: TERI PENGILLEY/THE GUARDIAN : THIS PAGE; COURTESY OF ROSEMARY GRIGGS

Emma Beddington



I'd love to be a better friend but geography gets in the way

I had a little spasm of unease recently, listening to Elizabeth Day talking on the radio about her new book Friendaholic and the problems that having too many friends has caused her. It's the same twitch I get reading psychologist Robin Dunbar's famous research on how many relationships we can maintain. Five intimate friendships is the optimal amount – I scrape two – and Dunbar posited that we can maintain a network of 150 people close enough that it wouldn't be awkward to have a drink with them. That's Dunbar's number: 150! I'd have to include everyone who walks their dog on my route, my whole pilates class and half the street to get there, and not knowing most of their names would surely push it over the awkwardness barrier. I mean, I can be awkward with my two intimate friends on bad days.

It's easy to feel inadequate about friendships, and I haven't, historically, been a good friend. I don't mean I steal boyfriends or betray confidences, but I'm chaotic, bad at prioritising and time slips through my fingers like water. I lived for a long time in a transient city – Brussels – where friendships seemed to be easily formed then easily forgotten and it gave me bad habits, I think, which make me seem thoughtless and careless. I suppose I *have been* thoughtless and careless.

I'm trying to be better, because I really like the few friends I have managed not to lose and am keen to be a bigger part of their lives. But how? My best friend currently lives four-plus hours and a minimum of two trains away in the (nonexistent in 2023) best case scenario. I have a good friend in the US and several scattered across the UK and Europe. I don't think that makes me particularly cosmopolitan, just a person living at a time and in a country where housing costs, the catastrophic state of childcare and social care plus career constraints mean we mainly settle wherever makes financial and practical sense, rather than where we might ideally choose.

> Meeting up involves planning, and possibly Southern Rail

And it's not ideal. We became friends because we like each other's company and we're ending up not getting much of that. Meeting up requires planning and expense, possibly an encounter with Southern Rail. There's no dropping in or spontaneity and that puts pressure on meet-ups: you can't just slump on a sofa with a bag of crisps each in silence, scrolling, occasionally showing each other stupid stuff. Well, you can, of course: my best friend and I do – we even did it when we lived in different countries – but there's an anxious tendency to feel crisps won't cut it.

That's silly because friendships thrive on regular side-by-side slumping, and simple proximity. Dunbar's research has also explored how friendship formation and maintenance are partly underpinned by the endorphin system, activated when you spend time together. Endorphin-firing activities include eating, drinking, laughing and telling stories. I don't think anyone has researched parallel sofa-based scrolling yet, but I'm hopeful that gets endorphins flowing too. It tallies with what I'm realising about friendship as I try to improve my own – stuff I think most people know instinctively, or learned decades ago. That like parenting, much of the important stuff happens in small, ordinary moments. That cumulative time is more important than some strained notion of "quality" time. That showing up is an act of love.

It's hard to show up for each other when we're miles away. If being near our friends makes us happier, why don't we all just try to do it? That's what a recent article in the Atlantic argued, and it has provoked a lot of soul-searching – mine, and more widely. I don't know how on earth we make it happen – see jobs, homes, kids, parents, above – and I'm not even sure many of us have a monolithic friendship group à la Central Perk to herd into an idyllic commune. But it's an interesting thought experiment. Could we try to reverse the Aussie soap theme song and make good friends neighbours? I'd probably manage to ruin it somehow, but it would be wonderful to have the chance to try.

We renovated the kitchen – and it's still full of evil

"Does everyone," the film critic Anne Billson asked on Twitter, "have an evil jar in their fridge?" To which surely the correct answer is: "Only one? Lightweight." We have a whole fridge shelf dedicated to cursed jars, most much older than Billson's best-before February 2021 rollmops. There's a chutney from 2018, something dark and viscous in a honey jar that isn't honey, and pots of vegan pesto – which goes off quicker than mince left out in the sun – covered in some terrifying bloom. If the zombie series The Last of Us has taught us anything, it's to fear anything fungal, so I'm not investigating further.

That's just the tip of the evil jar iceberg. Having recently renovated our kitchen, we were left with three storage boxes stuffed with Satan's condiments. The edible stuff has gone back in, and I use "edible" generously: raised in the kitchen of a man whose butter predated Brexit last time I looked, I take an extremely relaxed approach to best before dates. But that leaves us to confront the dregs, and the sticky, dusty truth about ourselves.

There are relics of ill-advised culinary adventures past: dusty maraschinos, hippie shop powders and some pickled ginger of unknown vintage that exhorts me to "Start your Japanese adventure." I am not insured for that, thanks. There were pots of cement-like ancient tahini I'm pretty sure were haunted. The real object of dread remains: kimchi.

You learn a lot from the forgotten reaches of your cupboards, and none of it is good. I need to stop buying rhubarb jam and my husband should take a cold, hard look at his vinegar addiction. I don't know what post-apocalyptic future we think we're preparing for, but it's going to be tart and sour.



PHOTOGRAPH: IWEBBSTOCK/ALAMY



How we met
Jill and Dave

In 1973, when Jill, now 70, discovered that Dave, now 71, had a crush on her, she was less than impressed. They had met at art college in Leicester the year before, but she had never considered a romantic relationship with him. "The first time we spoke was when he barged into a conversation I was having to ask if I knew of any rooms going," she says.

The next year, she bumped into him at the college library. "He was very insistent that I come to his 21st birthday party," she says. "While I was there, one of my friends came over and said, 'Dave fancies you.' My response was: 'Oh God.' I just didn't fancy him at all." Not wishing to be rude, she agreed to meet him for a coffee. "I definitely fancied her," Dave says. "I liked the way she looked and dressed and I found her funny."

The next Monday, she went to the coffee shop to meet him but got cold feet. "I'd only agreed to go out with him so I didn't hurt his feelings, but I was a bit panicked because I didn't want to pursue this relationship," she says. "I ended up hiding around the back of the building." But, when Dave arrived, he took a different route and assumed she was standing there waiting for him. "I had no idea she was trying to hide from me – she wasn't doing a very good job," he laughs.

> 'My friend said: "Dave fancies you." My reply was: "Oh God!"'

They had a drink together, and Jill soon warmed to Dave. "He really made me laugh and I realised I actually did like him." From then on, they enjoyed going to the cinema and gigs whenever they got the chance. By the end of 1973, they had moved in together in a shared house in Leicester. "I kept asking her to marry me but she kept saying no," says Dave.

Eventually, she said yes, and they got married in London in 1975. "Two weeks before the wedding, the priest told us not to do it," says Jill. "I'm an atheist and Dave is a practising Catholic and he told us it would never work." Despite the warnings, it was something they overcame. "At the beginning we used to argue about it but we got to a stage of accepting each other as we were. Religion hasn't affected our relationship," she says. The year after, they moved to Leeds so that Dave could complete his teacher training, before settling in Blackpool. Jill worked in graphic design, then later as a teacher and photographer. They have three children together, born in 1978, 1980 and 1982.

Jill loves her partner's trustworthiness. "We bicker a lot, but then he always makes me laugh and I can't be mad any more," she says. Dave admires his wife's work ethic. "She has always worked really hard for our family, and she's bubbly and funny. She drives me round the bend but I'd never be without her." **Lizzie Cernik**

Want to share the story of how you and your partner – or your friend – met? Fill in the form at theguardian.com/how-we-met

Twenty ways to spring-

A new season is a great time to make positive changes. **Lizzie Cernik** asks life coaches and therapists for simple ways to feel happier and healthier



Learn something new
Life changes can make us feel unsettled, taking away our ability to focus. Starting a new hobby or class is a great way to develop a renewed sense of purpose, leaving more space for creativity in our lives. Whether it's learning a new language or trying a different sport, it really helps to take you away from that "mind clutter" you don't want.
Sally Potter, women's wellness leader and hypnotherapist, alofthypnotherapy.com

Write a journal – but take your time
Most people won't find the time to write in a journal for an hour every day, especially when it's new to them. But you can still get a lot out of the process by doing it for just five minutes each day, until it becomes part of your normal routine. It's also worth using a habit tracker app or speaking to a friend to hold you accountable.
Emily Button, life coach, emilybuttoncoaching.com

Detox your wardrobe, not your body
As life gets busier and we grow older, our bodies often change shape. Rather than hanging on to old clothes "just in case you lose weight", choose to appreciate and accept the body you have right now. Forget the crash diet, just pack up the clothes that no longer fit and drop them at your favourite charity shop or give them away to someone you love. You'll also be making space for new things that better reflect the person you are today.
Lisa Talbot, personal stylist, lisatalbot.co.uk

Volunteer for a good cause
It's easy to get lost in your own thoughts and daily stresses. Try making time to volunteer for a charity or cause you feel passionate about, and document your journey. By comparing your thoughts and feelings with your usual daily experiences, it will help you to gain perspective, declutter your mind and open you up to new opportunities.
Dr Patapia Tzotzoli, psychologist, patapiatzotzoli.com

Practise saying no
People-pleasing often comes from a place of wanting to be accepted by others. Learning to say no and putting healthy boundaries in place is essential, whatever the person's reaction. Remind yourself that you can cope with the disappointment of others, so that you only take on tasks you can comfortably accommodate in your life.
Laura Greenwood, psychotherapist and maternal mental health coach, lauragreenwoodtherapy.com

Do a digital cleanse
Just because you've been a long-time follower of a social media account, it doesn't mean it's serving your wellbeing. Spring-clean your feed by unfollowing accounts that make you feel jealous, resentful or unhappy, and try to focus on the accounts you do feel a connection with. "Hate scrolling" might provide a short-term distraction, but it can also be a barrier to engagement, meaning and building genuine connections on and offline.
Dr Charlotte Russell, clinical psychologist, thetravelpsychologist.co.uk

Ditch self-love for self-compassion
Instagram might encourage self-love, but certain actions – such as ghosting someone or skipping an event you don't fancy – can appear selfish or hurtful. Self-compassion is about accepting yourself as you are, including your flaws, rather than putting yourself first at all times. Practising self-compassion and kindness can lead to more resilience, better relationships and higher levels of compassion and emotional availability for others.
Lara Cullen, life coach, thepeopleperson.org

Adopt the four Ds of time management
When it feels as if life is running away from you, regain control by "doing, deferring, delegating and deleting". Get your small tasks done quickly, delay anything that doesn't need to be done right away, hand over to others where possible and scratch any extra tasks that don't really need to be done at all.
Mandy Taylor, life coach, mandytaylorcoaching.com

> **"Regain control of your time by 'doing, deferring, delegating and deleting'**

Meal-prep at weekends
During the week it can be hard to create healthy meals that sustain us, especially when things are busy at home or work. Try making big batches of soups and casseroles while you're watching a film at the weekend. Having homemade ready meals in your freezer for those stressful moments will allow you to focus your time on other important tasks.
Helen Pamely, psychotherapist, helenpamely.com

Break your procrastination habits
Spring-clean that start/stop mentality by spotting your procrastination behaviours and challenging them every day. For example, when you find yourself saying "I'll just watch this before I start," make a conscious decision to stop in your tracks before you get distracted. Simply by saying "I choose to do this," you'll be helping your brain to overcome the procrastination trap.
Clare Flaxen, psychotherapist and founder of CF Mindset, clareflaxen.com

Keep a thought diary
Over time we develop habits and beliefs that don't serve us well. If you're not getting the results you want or you are repeating the same patterns, try keeping a thought diary. This will help you to notice some of the situations that are causing you anxiety or unhappiness, reflect on them and examine changes you might be able to make.
Merrisha Gordon, life and leadership coach, merrishagordoncoaching.com

ILLUSTRATIONS: ADAM HIGTON/THE GUARDIAN

-clean your life

Focus on what you can control
If you're feeling worried or anxious about something, it's easy for your mind to become quickly overwhelmed with negative thoughts. Take a sheet of paper and draw three columns. In the first one write down all the things about your situation that you can control, in the second write down the things you can influence and in the third add the aspects that are out of your control. When you're building a plan, look only at the first column, so that you're focusing on what you have the power to change.
Nicola Rae-Wickham, life and careers coach, alifemoreinspired.com

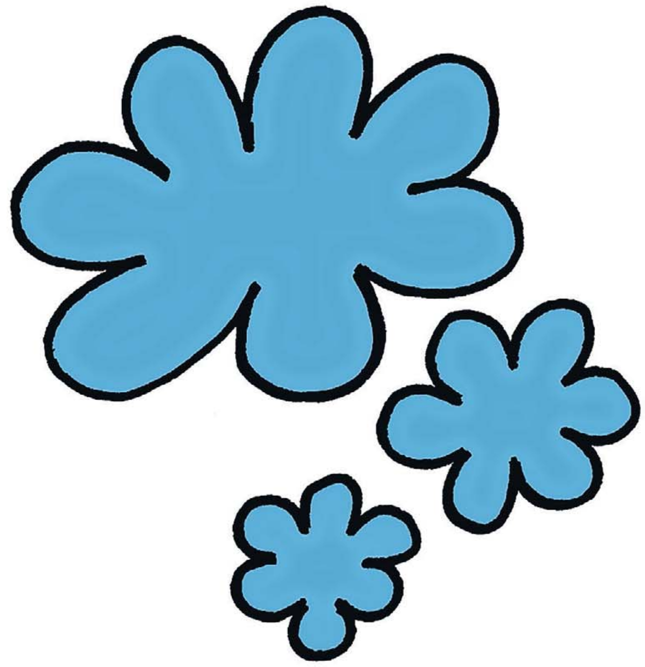
Buy an alarm clock
Prevent bedtime distractions and "doom scrolling" by investing in an old-fashioned alarm clock for your bedroom. If your phone is charging elsewhere in the house, you won't be tempted to look at work emails or mindlessly watch TikTok at 1am, when you should be resting. It will also prevent you from feeling wired at night, leading to feeling less overwhelmed during the day.
Suzy Glaskie, health coach, peppermintwellness.co.uk

Practise gratitude every day
As humans, we are programmed towards negative thinking and generally need five positive thoughts to counteract one negative one. Start each morning by thinking of five things you're grateful for, such as a warm bed or a nice message from a friend. Do the same in the evenings just before you go to sleep.
Anna Badcock, coach, avitacoaching.com

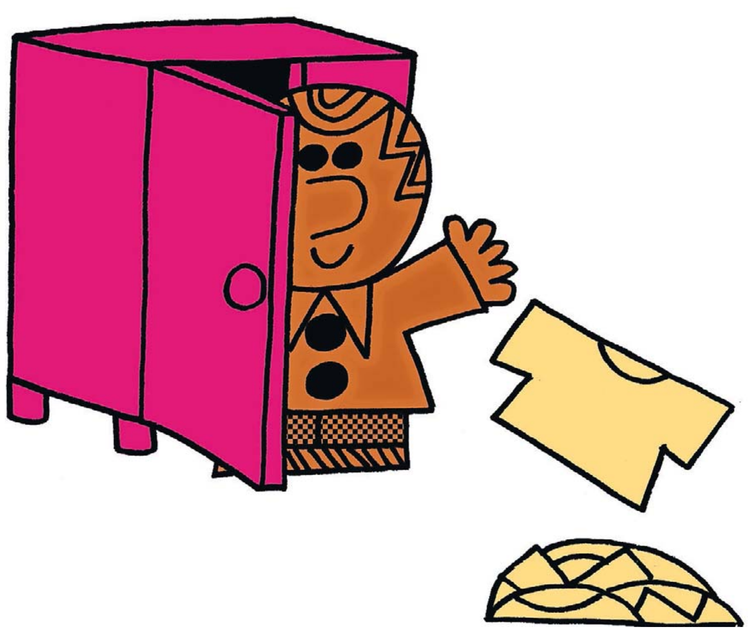
Monitor your triggers
When we feel upset or hurt by something someone says, it's a good opportunity to take a look at what we're holding on to and let it go. If you notice yourself being triggered, write down the beliefs you have about yourself in that moment, as well as your thoughts about the situation and the other person. The more familiar you get with your own baggage and triggers, the less power they will have over you.
Chris Finn, performance coach, chris-finn.com

Make a decluttering plan
Mess can affect your mood, but it's not always easy to get rid of things or know where to begin. Start by identifying your cluttered hotspots and visualising how you'd like them to look. Break it down into small areas, taking "before" photos so you can monitor your progress. Once you get going, put everything into designated bags for recycling, rubbish, selling and donating.
Britta Ofori-Kuragu, parenting and wellbeing practitioner, betterbeingbybritta.com

Rate your stress
It's easy to sleepwalk into a state of overwhelm when you're working on autopilot. Write down everything you're dealing with and rate the anxiety it's causing you from one to 10. Then work down the list from lowest to highest, putting in place a plan for each situation. Breaking things down into small steps always makes them easier to deal with.
Kathryn Dunn, cognitive behavioural therapist, intuitivehypnotherapy.uk







Make a record of your work achievements
Sometimes it can be hard to recognise our own successes, especially in a fast-paced workplace. Making a record of your achievements on a regular basis will boost your confidence in the short-term and give the starting blocks you need to negotiate a promotion or pay rise next time the opportunity comes up.
Laurie Macpherson, career mentor, lauriemacpherson.com

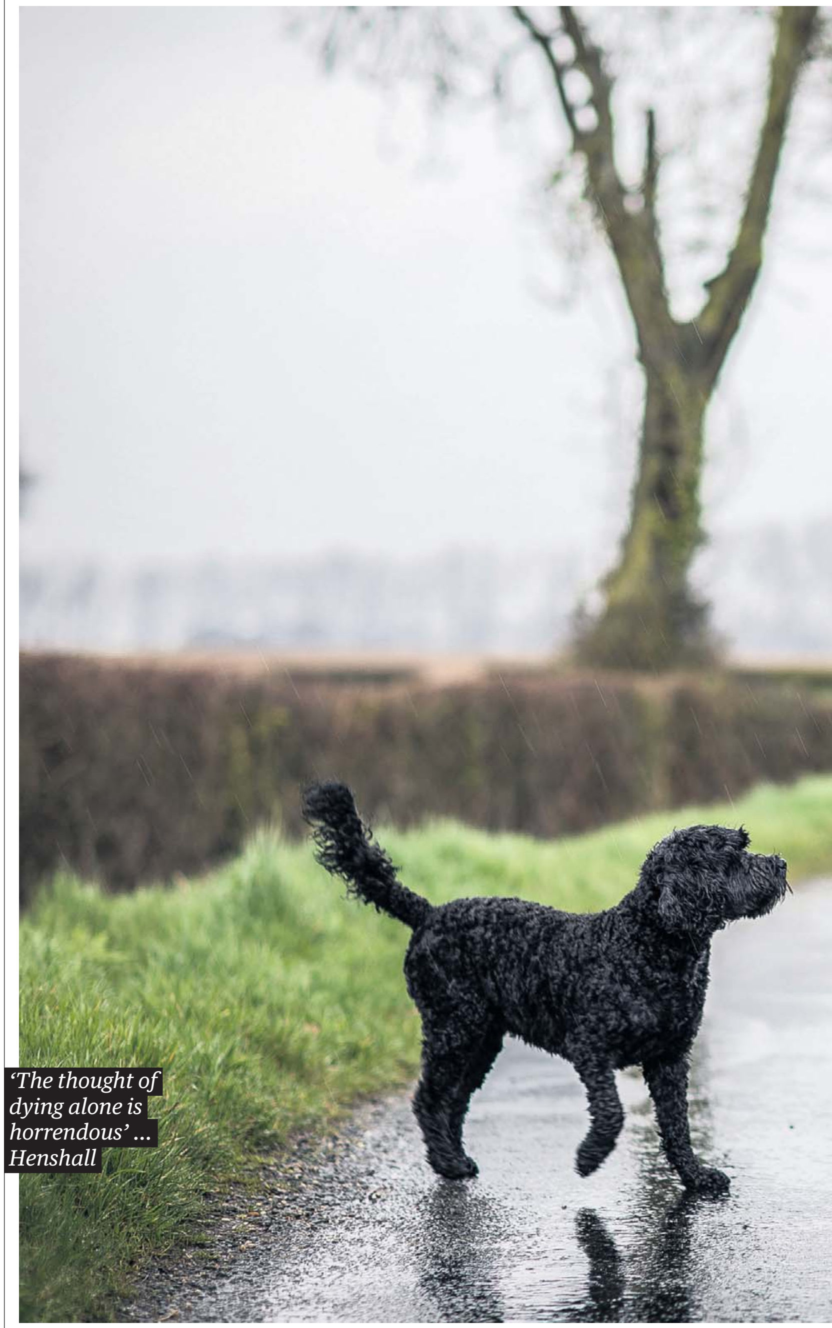
Do an energy audit
What we think of as baggage can often be a habit, situation or environment that is draining us. An energy audit is a simple exercise that helps you to identify the things that are affecting your life. On a page, list your "drainers" and "energisers" for people, environments, mindsets, habits and things. Then you can commit to making tiny adjustments in all the areas you identify.
Manuel Giudice, coach, manuelgiudice.com

> **"Humans need five positive thoughts to counteract one negative thought**

Build a list of your support network
When you're feeling overwhelmed, it can be hard to know where to turn. By creating a "go-to" list of people for every situation, you'll always have the support you need on hand. For example, you can include people who are good at practical help or giving advice, as well as friends who are great listeners and will give you the space you need to talk about your feelings.
Katerina Georgiou, psychotherapist and author, kgcounsellor.com

‘We cannot do without human contact’

In lockdown, actor Ruthie Henshall was unable to visit her dying mother in a care home. Now she is fighting for change. She tells **Sam Wollaston** about pain, Partygate – and getting drunk with King Charles



‘The thought of dying alone is horrendous’ … Henshall

One day in June 2020, Ruthie Henshall – actor, singer, dancer, and star of musical theatre – went to visit her mother, Gloria, at her residential care home in Suffolk. This was the first time Henshall had seen her mum for three months – not because she didn’t want to go, or through neglect, but because of lockdown. They had done a few Zoom calls, but there was only one iPad to go around the 50 or so residents in the home, it needed to be booked and there had to be a carer free to help, so it only happened every couple of weeks. And anyway, Gloria, who had Alzheimer’s, didn’t get on very well with Zoom. “She thought she was watching us on television,” says Henshall.

“Visit” is perhaps an exaggeration. Henshall and her two sisters weren’t allowed in; they could only go to the window and wave at their mother inside. “She would wave back – she still recognised us. She couldn’t understand why we couldn’t come in, so she cried.”

That first time Henshall was shocked at the state of her mum. “In three months, she had lost so much weight. She was in a chair all day; some days they didn’t have the staff to even get her out of bed. She’d lost the ability to chew so they had to thicken her drinks and mush her food. She had stopped walking and she had stopped talking. It just wasn’t Mum.”

She puts Gloria’s decline down to a lack of contact, lack of conversation, and lack of love. Of course these were extraordinary times: Covid was ripping through the home, there were no tests, vaccines were a long way off, 13 residents died in the first two months, the fabric of care was being stretched to breaking point. Henshall understood the carers had to try to keep their charges safe. But it wasn’t doing her mum any good. “For someone with dementia, we are their eyes and their ears, their voice, their memories.”

“People were screaming outside windows at carers because they would take residents away to bring someone else’s loved one to the window. I’ve never seen so many people crying outside a building,” says Henshall, and she includes herself. After the waving visits, which she did every day, she was usually in tears, too.

This is how it went for months – waving and tears. The home did set up a tent in the garden, for visits, but there was a plastic sheet between the visitors and residents. “We weren’t allowed contact, or within two metres. She would put her arms out for a hug; we would have to keep saying: ‘Sorry, Mum.’”

Even when it started to open up outside – family bubbles of up to six people, testing, then vaccination – Henshall didn’t get to hug her mum. “They battened down the hatches. They’d lost so many residents, had so many empty rooms and money lost, they weren’t letting people in even when everyone inside had been vaccinated. We had been vaccinated, there was PPE, there were tests; they were still keeping them in their rooms 24/7.”

Henshall thinks basic human rights were being denied. “The right to be with another human being, the right to a family life. People in care homes are treated as second-class citizens – they’re old, so people don’t give a shit. But they’re the people who fought for us, who brought us up, who paved the way for us.”

So she started to make a fuss. She talked to other people, such as Jenny Morrison and Diane Mayhew, who set up Rights for Residents in 2020, in response to what they said were the inhumane visiting policies placed on care home residents. Henshall became an ambassador for them. The guidance was changing so often no one knew what it was; different care homes were interpreting it in different ways, “depending on what time it was or how the manager felt. It was a postcode lottery.”





Henshall campaigning at Downing St; (right) her mother Gloria being crowned Miss Ipswich, circa 1950

Meanwhile, in Downing St … “That absolute clusterfuck by the government!” Henshall, 56, almost spits. “When I heard about the drinks parties and everything going on there, I remember actually crying. Yes, I’ve done the timeline. While all the parties were going on, while they were snogging in corridors and raising glasses of champagne, I was stood at a window waving at my mum, observing all the fucking rules, like we all did.”

She didn’t get to watch Boris Johnson giving evidence to the privileges committee the other day – she was working (rehearsing for 42nd Street; she’s also just about to be on the telly, in Coronation Street). But she doesn’t for one second buy that he didn’t know the rules – his rules – were being broken. “Bollocks!” she says – typically forthright. What gets her most is that he never said sorry. No one did. She slips into an impersonation of the former PM, being shambolic and posh and evasive. “Erm … parties? Vaccine rollout, vaccine rollout, vaccine rollout …”

Henshall lives not far from Clacton-on-Sea, where she made her debut at the West Cliff theatre 38 years ago, aged 18. Since then, she has been in many West End musicals: She Loves Me (for which she won an Olivier award), Crazy for You, Chicago, Peggy Sue Got Married, Marguerite. She has been on Broadway, and on TV, as a judge on Dancing on Ice, and on I’m a Celebrity, though not in the jungle because that was also during Covid; instead she went hungry in a cold Welsh castle.

Home now is a cosy, Hansel-and-Gretel thatched cottage that she shares with her daughters, Lily and Dolly, and Winnie the cockapoo. She divorced the girls’ father, actor and singer Tim Howar, in 2010. She isn’t expecting me today – there has been a mix-up over dates, but I am here now, so she lets me in and makes coffee.

“Would you like the cunt mug?” she asks. Oh, I don’t know, maybe? She shows me a comedy mug given to her by a friend with a message on the side: “We can literally only be

PHOTOGRAPHS: TERI PENGILLEY/THE GUARDIAN; TRISTRAM KENTON/THE GUARDIAN; PA





'Mum would have loved to have been an actress' … Henshall in Chicago, 1997

friends if you are a bit of a cunt." It is, she admits, one of her favourite words, especially with "ed" at the end, to mean very drunk. Later she will tell me how the current British monarch once got her c - … very drunk. No, really?

Oh, go on, let's do it now - a bit of comic relief within the tragedy. She was dating his brother at the time. Edward! Phew! They met when he was working at the Really Useful Theatre Company and she was in Cats. One summer Edward took her to Balmoral and they had a cook-out at the lodge on Loch Muick. It all sounds very jolly; Charles gave Henshall her first ever martini, quickly followed by her second. "The Queen and Margaret started singing hymns and Diana poked me from behind and said: 'Stop them singing hymns - sing something else.' And Margaret said: 'Oh yes, what are you in at the moment?' I was doing Les Mis so I sang I Dreamed a Dream, after two martinis. I must have changed key at least three times!"

It doesn't really matter whether interviewers like their subjects, and I'm here to talk to her about something specific, but I'm just going to say it anyway: it was a pleasure to spend a couple of hours with Ruthie Henshall. She was warm, welcoming, full of tangents and funny stories; she made me laugh as well as very nearly cry. I guess that's what actors do.

> **"I'd feed Mum, hug her, sing to her. When the carers left the room, I'd take off my mask and kiss her**

How did we get on to the royal family? Because we were talking about Partygate, the cheese and wine and leaving drinks, while Henshall was waving at her mother through a window. And Elizabeth Windsor was sitting alone in St George's Chapel, mourning her husband, remember?

We're in the beamy living room now. That's Gloria on the wall, a black-and-white photo of her own coronation, as Miss Ipswich, circa 1950. Gloria became an English and drama teacher. "She would have loved to have been an actress or dancer herself, but she grew up in the war in a very poor family so that was never going to be an option. When I entered the business it was a thrill for her. I think those opening nights were an absolute joy for her."

They were close but Gloria wasn't an easy woman. She drank and had a fiery relationship with her husband; Henshall thinks she suffered from depression. "When she got dementia, all that fell away. I know lots of people get vile, but she laughed again and got a kick out of life. For me there was a great healing with my mum." That was taken away again, by Covid, and by care home policy.

Henshall did get in to see her mother again. Properly, not through glass or plastic, but in the flesh. It turned out that government guidance had decided that some care home residents might require additional support from relatives or friends and had established the role of "essential caregiver", someone who could come and go more freely and more often. Once she discovered that, Henshall was there, banging on the door, waving it at them, saying if they didn't let her in she was going to campaign louder. They let her in in April 2021, more than a year after the first lockdown.

"When I first put my arms around her, she buried her head in my chest and moaned and cried. We cannot do without human contact." The carers, too, were happy - it was lovely to have someone from outside back in the home and to have a bit of help. One told Henshall that the light had come back into Gloria's eyes. "I would feed her, massage her, hug her, sing to her." Maybe I Dreamed a Dream - I should have asked. "When they were all out of the room I would take my mask off and kiss her."

They had five weeks together. It was only after she was allowed into the home that Henshall realised her mum was dying. One day she noticed Gloria's breathing had changed. She told the staff, who called an ambulance. They said they could take her to hospital but that Henshall wouldn't be allowed to go with her. Henshall asked if her mother was in pain, and they told her she wasn't, so the ambulance left empty. Henshall wasn't going to let her go again, and Gloria wasn't going to go alone.

"I think I have a fear of dying alone," Henshall says. "The thought of it is horrendous. This is why I am flagging this up to people - it could be you, it could be your loved ones." Henshall has told her own daughters that if necessary she wants them to take her to Dignitas.

Thousands of people did die alone during the pandemic, forcibly separated from their families. Many stopped eating and drinking, or taking medication because that was something they had control over. Without the emotional support that only a close relative or friend offers, many lost the will to live.

In some ways the Henshalls were lucky, though Henshall wonders what difference it would have made to Gloria's health and wellbeing, had she been allowed in sooner. She's not pointing fingers, naming and shaming. She's certainly not blaming carers, who are underpaid and undervalued. It's about changing the system. "The chances are, if there's another strain or another pandemic, the same thing will happen again."

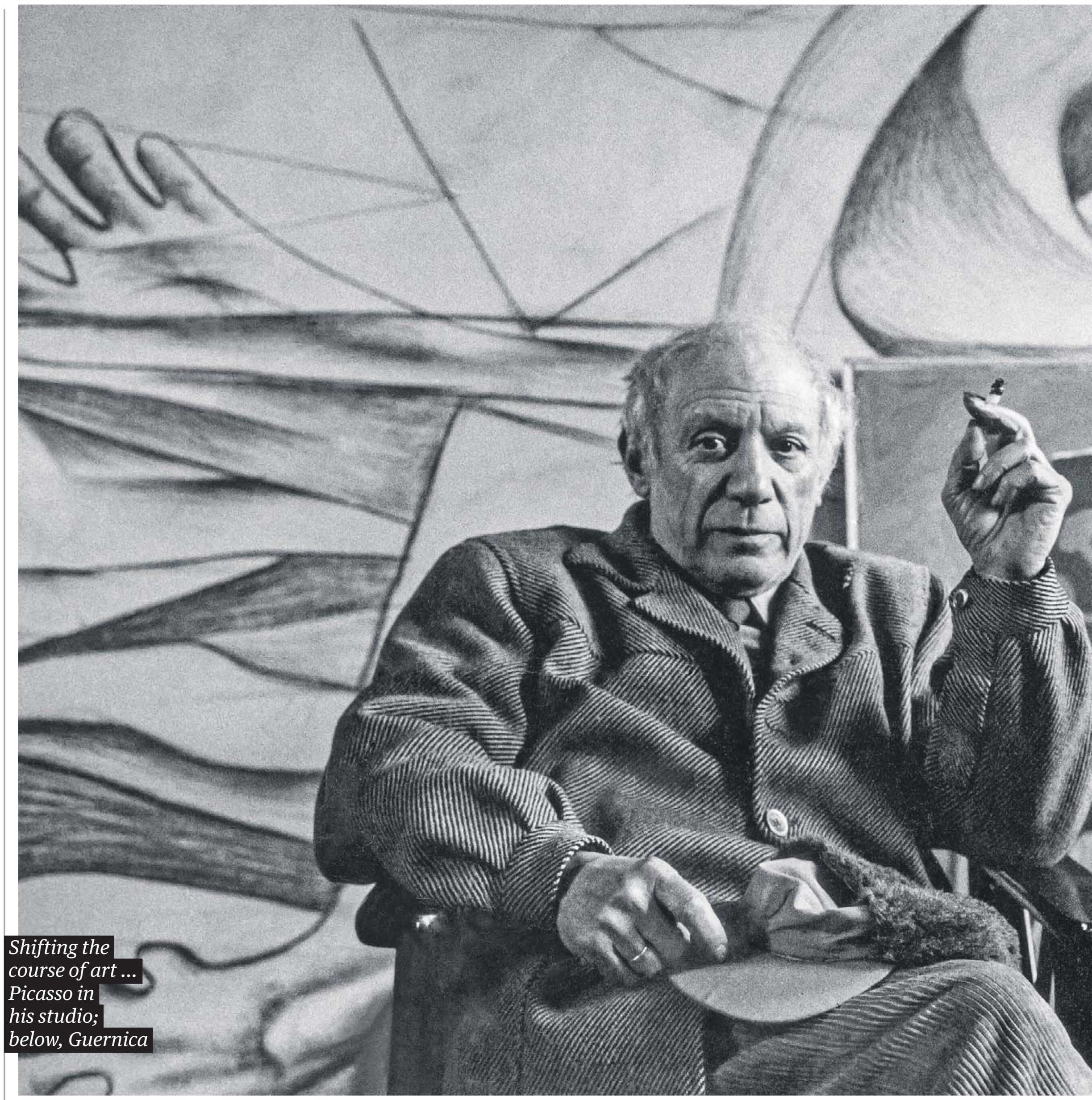
Actually, it is still happening. Some care homes are still restricting visits. "It beggars belief to me that we are still having this conversation, having to fight for the rights of residents three years down the line, three years of people being locked down." Last year, the care minister, Helen Whately, said she was determined to fix the "misery, despair and anger at being kept away from someone you are desperately worried about" - and yet still it's not a legal right.

That is what Henshall, and the Rights for Residents group, are campaigning for: a new law, so that anyone in a care home or hospital has the right to at least one care supporter - relative or friend - who can give in-person support to them in all circumstances. They're calling it Gloria's law, of course.

Gloria didn't die alone - Henshall was with her. Not just Henshall: she did break the rules for once that night, though in the grand scheme of rule-breaking, I don't think anyone is going to get too upset. "I snuck my two sisters in. There was a side door - it went straight to the room, there was no danger to anybody else." They put music on, read to their mother, lay with her. "We gave her the exit out of the world we wanted her to have."

Is it time to cancel Picasso?

He was the 20th century's mightiest artist - but he was also a viciously cruel misogynist. Fifty years after his death, should Picasso be mothballed? Collectors, critics, artists and curators give **Alex Needham** their verdicts



Shifting the course of art ... Picasso in his studio; below, Guernica

When Picasso died at the age of 91, almost exactly 50 years ago, the Guardian called him the most influential artist of the 20th century. Today, he is more frequently talked about as a misogynist and cultural appropriator, the ultimate example of problematic white guys clogging up the artistic canon.

This summer, the Brooklyn Museum will mount an exhibition called It's Pablo-matic (geddit?), co-curated by Hannah Gadsby, whose 2018 standup special Nanette includes a riff on how much the Aussie comic hates Picasso. ("Cubism. All the perspectives at once! Any of those perspectives a woman's? No! You just put a kaleidoscope filter on your cock.") In Paris, meanwhile, the Picasso Museum has enlisted fashion designer Paul Smith to make the morally dubious genius more palatable to Gen Z.

Yet can Picasso's torrential output - 14,000 paintings and drawings; 100,000 prints; 24,000 book illustrations; 300 models and sculptures - really be cut down to size in this way? Do his offensive views outweigh masterpieces like Guernica? Does Picasso's undeniably terrible treatment of women mean that we can cast aside the quantum leaps that shifted the course of art? We asked critics, artists, collectors and curators for their verdicts.

'He turned lovers into caricatures of suffering'

Adrian Searle, Guardian art critic

Picasso can be viewed as a monstrous, larger-than-life character in a novel that spans almost a century. His appeal is as a picaresque who left a trail of destruction in his wake: abandonments, betrayals, suicides. We have the vampire, the Andalucían macho, the charismatic manipulator, the sociopath, the narcissist. Then there's the minotaur who preyed on young girls, the rapist of the Vollard suite, the thief of African tribal masks, the cubist who wrecked the room and patched it back together again. We see the Picasso who laid waste to women, who fed his art with body parts and turned lovers into parodic and pneumatic toys, caricatures of suffering. If not for his art, he'd just be another monster, treating women terribly.



Everything bad you hear about Picasso may be true. But what of the constant innovation, formal and stylistic? The jaw-dropping complexity of his work? Difficulty, as well as pleasure, is embedded in his art. For some, this can never be enough. He paid witness to the tumult of the 20th century. Picasso was a sentimental communist, both modern and superstitious. Born in Málaga in 1881, he was a child of 19th century provincial Spain, and he brought the upbringing with him. His indisputable awfulness as a human being is part of that complexity. There is no going back on the difficulties. You can't have Picasso without Picasso.

'He wears his imagination on his sleeve and in the work'

Aaron Curry, artist

Picasso still inspires young artists, because he worked through so many styles. He's a textbook of freedom: "Hey, you can try all this stuff. Use your imagination - and push boundaries." Which is good because, at art school, a lot of things are taught through the lens of Duchamp: this idea that anything can be art as long as you, as an artist, say it is. Whereas Picasso wears his imagination on his sleeve. You can see it in the work.

I got really interested in the works from 1915 to 1917. That's when he created assemblage: there's a piece of wood, hang it on the wall with another piece of wood, and is that sculpture - or a painting? I found those exciting when I started moving from painting to sculpture. You don't have to take a stone and carve it, or model something from clay. You can pick up things around the studio and put them together.

As for the cultural appropriation, I think an artist's job is to take culture and make something of it. It's our job to appropriate. I don't feel there should be rules saying: "There's only a certain sort of material you're allowed to use." It's not what artists do. They're not politicians. Once something's done, it's out there for people to respond to.

'Scale, grit and celebrity with a macho, lusty masculinity'

Eliza Goodpasture, critic

Picasso's brand of greatness is characterised by loudness, scale, grit, originality, celebrity and overall shock-and-awe value. It is also distinguished by a macho, lusty masculinity. His notorious cruelty and misogyny are arguably as famous as his paintings. Picasso's life and art were made possible by the work of women: his wives and mistresses who cared for him and organised his life, and of course the models and muses who fill his paintings. These women could not have stood where he stood behind the canvas, in brothels and bars and on battlefields, thinking of nothing but work. The lurid radicality of his art rests on a wanton disregard for the humanity of the women he painted and slept with.

Even as other "great artists" are beginning to be held to account, Picasso has clung on to his status as the most important, and most famous, artist of the 20th century. Genius transcends misogyny,



> **He is seen as a minotaur who preyed on young women – and a thief who stole African tribal masks**





African influence ... top, Les Demoiselles d'Avignon; right, the Picasso Celebration show in Paris

PHOTOGRAPHS: SCIENCE HISTORY IMAGES/ALAMY ; VINCIANE LEBRUN/VOYEZ-VOUS; STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY ; PETER BARRITT

apparently. It is impossible to separate Picasso's work from his life, and equally impossible to escape the legacy of his enormous oeuvre. But we can escape the narrow definition of "great" that limits the history of art to men like Picasso.

The canon is not fixed and unchangeable: it is constantly being re-evaluated. What if great art included work that is subtle, nuanced, quiet, small, challenging and complicated? Imagine if a great artist could be any gender, any race – or even a person who valued the humanity of others. Who else might be a household name?

'To live with a painting is to live with its painter'

Helly Nahmad, gallerist and collector of Picasso's work

When you live with one of Picasso's paintings, you might rush past it on the way out. Or you're waiting for something, you're on the phone, or you're arguing – and it's there. A Picasso painting is a meditation so infinite you need years to discover it. All that in a work he made in 15 minutes.

In the pictures from the 1960s onwards, he uses negative space a lot, that is to say unpainted canvas. He'll paint – very quickly – the space under the chin, jaw and neck, then the hair, then two blobs. And yet you look at it and think: "That's a portrait." The actual marks can be more like abstract blobs. Yet through them he gives you a portrait. It's shocking. It's mindboggling.

To live with a painting is to live with its painter – because they're putting their deepest thoughts on canvas. So you're in the presence of his soul, in your home. It's intense! Many years ago, I sold my apartment and the art came out six months beforehand. As soon as it left, the house just became concrete.

'Objectifying women? He was damn good at it!'

Lisa Small and Catherine Morris, curators of It's Pablo-matic

Lisa Small: I wouldn't want to have been married to him.

Catherine Morris: Hannah Gadsby says there's a lot that's easy to hate about Picasso – but if the goal was to cancel Picasso, we wouldn't be doing this show and Hannah wouldn't be participating. However, I would say, as a curator of feminist art, that you can only look at Picasso today through a lens of feminist critique.

LS: We're not tearing him down. We wouldn't be putting his works on the wall if we were dismissing him or saying he's irrelevant. His influence is so solid across the entire culture that it would be a fool's game to say we're not going to talk about his work any more. It's been interesting, in terms of the feminist artists who make up the largest part of this exhibition, to learn from their thinking around Picasso – and how he still has an effect on them, not necessarily negative. The idea of objectifying women in art and the male gaze – he did not invent that by any stretch of the imagination.

CM: He was damn good at it!

LS: He brought it to an accomplished conclusion. A work of art is an object that is apart from a person – it's out in the world, open to interpretation. Picasso was always painting the women with whom he was involved: he talked about how his personal life intersects with his art – but that doesn't mean that's what we're limited to.

CM: The endgame of modernity after Picasso's death was to exclude biography, but that becomes part of the reason to go back into it, because it's annoying. Female artists, disabled artists and artists of colour have always been reinserted into history through their biography, and male artists of the modern period somehow set themselves outside that. In the 50 years since Picasso's death, female artists and women art historians have changed the world. Picasso wouldn't recognise it – and he's part of that conversation whether he wants to be or not.

'Africans were ahead of the game and all its players'

Rianna Jade Parker, critic and curator

Picasso was famously pictured in his Paris studio in 1908, surrounded by African masks – not decoratively, or even appreciatively, but as an obsessive collector, intrigued and possibly contemptuous of them. His historians insist that his "Africa period" was short-lived, running from 1907 to 1909, but exactly when and how does influence formally end?

In the spring of 1907, Paris's Palais du Trocadéro ethnographic museum boasted works by African, Native American and Oceaniac artists that had been acquired through less than just means, categorised as "primitive arts". Picasso recognised there was nothing primitive about them.

After seeing this exhibition, he confessed: "I forced myself to stay, to examine these masks, all these objects that people had created with a sacred, magical purpose, to serve as intermediaries between them and the unknown, hostile forces surrounding them, attempting in that way to overcome their fears by giving them colour and form. And then I understood what painting really meant. It's not an aesthetic process; it's a form of magic that interposes itself between us and the hostile universe, a means of seizing power by imposing a form on our terrors as well as on our desires. The day I understood that, I had found my path."

Idols of pictorial beauty, statuettes and masks are made using multiple perspectives, with bulbous and inverted shapes utilised to make monumental and expressive faces – these signature Picasso hallmarks were all part of an intuitive African art. Inspiration is for free and is circular but credit is always due. African American painter Faith Ringgold made numerous trips to the Museum of Modern Art in New York to view Guernica where it hung for a period. This spurred her to make her famed 1967 painting American People Series #20: Die.

Les Demoiselles d'Avignon is seen as the touchstone of modernism and further credit is given to the cubists Braque, Matisse and Gauguin. It is, then, fair to say that Africans were ahead of the game and all of its players – acting as primary contributors to the avant garde.

'At times, his women actually seem to look down on men'

Erika Verzutti, artist

As a child in São Paulo, I didn't have any contact with contemporary art, but everyone had heard of Picasso. When I finally got to know his work, it gave me so much. I like it more today than I did in my student days because it keeps moving. I believe the truth in the work. My feeling is that he's pointing at African culture, at the truth that is there. He's saying: "There's another perspective and language – they've got it already." So I'm an enthusiast.

Despite Picasso's biography, some of his paintings show women who at times seem to be looking down on the man, subverting the male gaze. Sometimes the gaze changes and the body is no longer sexual – it is very dynamic. I cannot let that contradiction go because it informs my work, it informs everything.

'Using Africa as a source of inspiration made for great art'

Aindrea Emelife, curator at Edo Museum of West African Art, Lagos

One of my favourite works is Massacre en Corée, or Massacre in Korea, from 1951. But Picasso means more to me than favourites. As he looked to African art, via the Trocadéro in Paris, he saw a religious depth and ritual purpose that both startled and moved him. The sophisticated use of flat planes and bold contouring was unlike anything he had encountered. This understanding of African art aesthetic is reasonably simplistic, but as a source of inspiration, it made for great art.

Today, I'd say my favourite works are two studies: Head of a Woman (Study for Nude With Drapery), and Study for the Head of Nude With Drapery. Both remind me of Fang Ngil masks from Gabon rendered in subtle cross-hatched beauty. The fact that Picasso saw beauty and drama in the elegant abstractions of the forms, as well as in the elongated facial features of African masks, *could* have catalysed a moment of intrigue and investigation into African art and aesthetic. It *could* have fostered authentic curiosity in the art world. Fifty years after Picasso's death, if I want to complete the limited story of modernism we have been told, I look to Africa.

Picasso Celebration: The Collection in a New Light is at the Picasso Museum, Paris, until 27 August. It's Pablo-matic is at the Brooklyn Museum, New York, 2 June to 24 September



Perfect chemistry … Will Poulter as Bobby and Lucy Boynton as Frankie

Review Why Didn't They Ask Evans?, ITV

Hugh Laurie's adaptation of Agatha Christie is pure delight

★★★★★

Jack Seale



The first of many good jokes in Why Didn't They Ask Evans? is a scuffed tee shot. A few lines of beautifully economical dialogue establish that the golfer in question, playing with the sea behind him on a gorgeous Welsh links course, regularly disdains the wise counsel of his younger, fitter caddie, to the gentle amusement of them both. After he has insisted on using his driver ("Are you sure, sir?"), the way the ball grubs pathetically along the ground is just right. Everything in this three-part period whodunnit - originally seen last year on BritBox, and with parts two and three shown tonight and tomorrow - is just right.

But the golf round is soon interrupted by a cry from the bottom of the nearby cliff. The caddie, Bobby (Will Poulter), scrambles down and finds a man, broken and dying, who utters the phrase that gives the story its title, before his eyes become finally glassy and still. Bobby checks the corpse for clues, coming across a photograph of a beautiful but distressed woman, and is then joined (rather suddenly, given the remoteness of this part of the shore) by a friendly chap named Roger Bassington-ffrench (Daniel Ings) - "Two small Fs, don't ask me what they stand for". He offers to wait with the body until the police arrive, but is not seen again afterwards.

In the ensuing days, as Bobby wonders whether to try to decipher those peculiar dying words, he is followed by a sinister, staring, bowler-hatted man. Soon it is clear that anyone digging into the circumstances of the fatal fall will be in grave danger.

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Nothing, however, is ever more delightful than romantic chemistry, of the kind where within a minute of two characters meeting, we know they love each other and so do they, even if they never say it. After witnessing death on the seashore, Bobby returns to the village and has his breath taken away by a familiar face. Frankie (Lucy Boynton) is an old childhood friend, from the days when she and Bobby were young enough not to care that she was an aristocrat and he merely a vicar's son. She has returned to Marchbolt from London ("It's full of people, and yet there's nobody there"), soon after Bobby has come back from a stint in the navy.

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Colin from Accounts
10pm, BBC Two



Created by and starring real-life married couple Patrick Brammall and Harriet Dyer *(left and right, above)*, this cracking romcom series has already been a hit in Australia. Set in Sydney, the meet-cute happens when Gordon (Brammall) runs over a stray dog after Ashley (Dyer) distracts him by flashing a breast as she crosses the road. The two singletons decide to look after the poor pooch and call him Colin. Such good fun.

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Perfect chemistry … Will Poulter as Bobby and Lucy Boynton as Frankie

Review Why Didn't They Ask Evans?, ITV

Hugh Laurie's adaptation of Agatha Christie is pure delight

★★★★★

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Friday's solutions

Wordsearch

C	L	Y	N	S	K	N	W	T
J	Z	I	U	R	E	A	L	H
R	J	N	A	E	G	H	T	R
E	G	C	D	O	L	N	R	E
U	H	C	N	A	M	R	I	E
Z	O	I	S	G	G	E	T	M
E	H	O	L	N	R	T	I	A
E	N	O	A	A	L	S	U	I
G	S	H	U	T	D	E	O	T
E	S	N	A	U	Y	W	C	D
R	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S

Sudoku no 6019

2	5	7	1	4	8	9	6	3
6	4	8	5	3	9	1	2	7
9	1	3	6	7	2	5	4	8
3	9	4	7	8	1	2	5	6
5	2	6	3	9	4	8	7	1
7	8	1	2	6	5	3	9	4
4	7	2	9	1	3	6	8	5
1	6	9	8	5	7	4	3	2
8	3	5	4	2	6	7	1	9

Suguru

2	4	2	5	3	4
3	1	3	1	2	1
4	2	4	5	4	3
5	3	1	3	1	2
2	4	5	2	5	3
1	3	1	4	1	2

Word wheel
DEHYDRATE

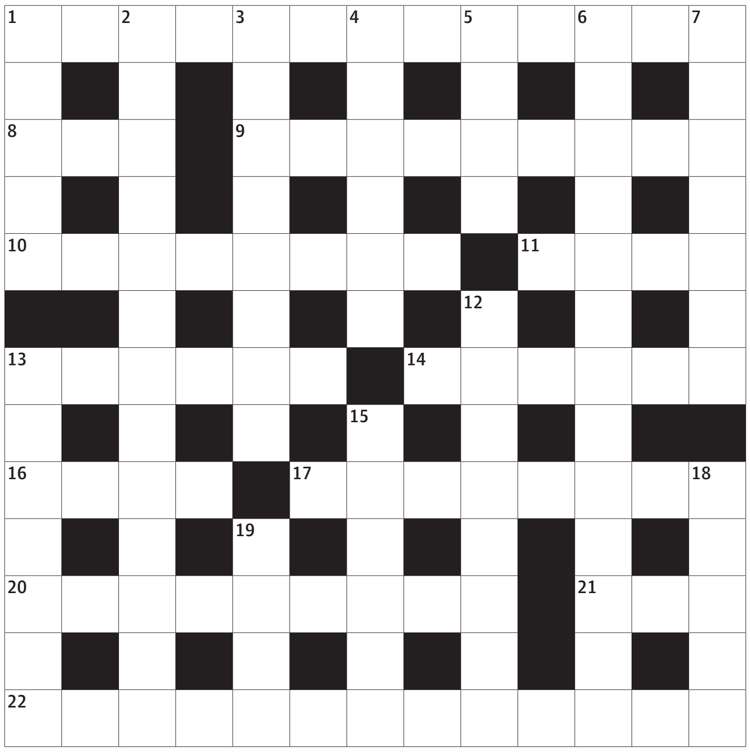
Saturday's Quick crossword Solution no 16,512



Quick crossword no 16,513

Across
1 Peculiar - individual (13)
8 Hospital department dealing with head and neck problems (abbr) (3)
9 Power of memory (9)
10 Decontaminated (8)
11 Delight (4)
13 State categorically (6)
14 Sets straight (6)
16 Clothes (informal) (4)
17 Place to pay the bill (4,4)
20 Held together by strong ties (5-4)
21 Free (from) (3)
22 Camaraderie (6,2,5)

Down
1 Freeze (3,2)
2 Social group involved in some activity and having common aims (8,5)
3 Certain (4-4)
4 Grated spice (6)
5 Offensive in smell - line of soldiers (4)
6 Experimenting until a solution is found (5-3-5)
7 Come clean (7)
12 Vehement (8)
13 Diplomat (7)
15 Distressed (6)
18 Public acclaim (5)
19 Military cap with a flat round top and a visor (4)



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Sudoku no 6023

Easy. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

				9	1	4		
8					2	3		
		3					1	7
		4					6	2
9			4					5
1	8			2				
	4				5	2		
5		9	2					
	3		1	8			4	

Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

	3				1
	2		4		
					4
		5			5
	2				

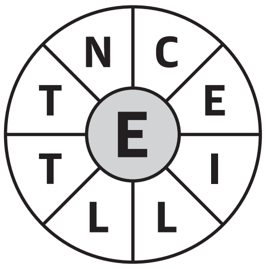
Wordsearch

Can you find 15 Spanish cities and towns in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

B	O	S	N	A	T	G	J	A
A	S	D	L	O	R	T	N	J
E	S	I	E	A	E	O	A	E
N	V	M	N	L	R	L	C	R
A	T	A	B	I	O	A	N	E
G	D	D	G	I	D	T	E	Z
A	S	R	T	I	L	U	U	E
L	N	I	Z	M	S	B	C	O
A	T	D	E	A	R	B	A	C
M	U	R	C	I	A	R	N	O
E	L	L	I	V	E	S	S	E

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-36. Good-30. Average-22.



Pet corner

What animal appears on the cover of Aerosmith's Get a Grip album?
a. Cow
b. Pig
c. Sheep
d. Donkey
Answer top right



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